# Feni hold Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Shrugging off a shocking road accident on way to Dhaka, Feni Soccer Club put up a spirited show to hold hosts Brothers Union to a goalless draw in the Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha

Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Before the start of the game, there was a doubt as to whether the booters from Feni could

recover from the shocking road accident that left eight to nine players with minor injuries. But Feni did well and they were unlucky not to post their fifth triumph despite playing better than fallen giants Brothers Union. Both sides created some scoring chances but

their forwards could not covert it even missing some open net opportunities and thus both sides had to be content sharing points.

way to Dhaka on Friday, Feni soccer assistant coach Zahiruddin Kismot was also in doubt whether the players could give their hundred percent against Brothers Union but his disbelief started to wipe away the game progressed.

"Yes, I was in doubt about the players performance, but the accident did not affect the players and they gave their best in the game," said Kismot, who was given responsibility following fever of regular coach Zahid Hossain Milon.

Feni could have won the game had their forwards Tabith Awal, Monaem Raju, Anwar Hossain and Manju not missed the target.

Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal also admitted that Feni Soccer played better than them and the visitors should have won the game.

"Yes, they performed better compared to us and missed a couple of scoring chances, but we also got some chances like them and we also could have won the game had Enock Bentil, Didar and Taru not squandered sitters," said Wasim.

With the fifth draw in 12 matches of the first leg, Feni Soccer maintained their fourthposition with 17 points, 10 points less than joint Following the road accident in Comilla on second-placed Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel KC.

Like Feni Soccer, Brothers Union also maintained their fifth-place with 14 points from 12 matches of the first leg and it was the first draw for the Gopibagh-based outfit.

### INDO-BANGLADESH BANGLA GAMES

## Huge group leaves today

Ljubicic stuns Nadal

Nadal since 2005 as he stopped

a five-match skid against the

Spaniard that included defeats

last year in the quarter-finals of

Masters 1000 events in Monte

tournament since a knee injury

forced him to retire from the

Australian Open while trailing

Andy Murray in a tight

Ljubicic, who gave a leap of

triumph fist raised, as his

forehand winner on match

"I was serving great," said

Ljubicic, whose 17 aces took his

total for the tournament to 66.

He said he needed them

was fantastic, there was not

much I could do really,"

of serve to open the third set,

Nadal missing with two fore-

hands to give up the first game

and Ljubicic double-faulting

on break point to surrender the

of his aces in the final set, faced

one more break point - after a

double-fault in the eighth

game - but got out of the jam as

Ljubicic, who served eight

The two had traded breaks

"Rafa, off the baseline he

"It was fantastic," said

Nadal was playing his first

Carlo and Shanghai.

quarterfinal match.

point landed.

against Nadal

Ljubicic said.

SPORTS REPORTER

A 182-member Bangladesh contingent leaves here for Kolkata by road tonight to take part in the third Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games with a hope of achieving better results than in the previous editions.

"Our target is always to win whenever we take part in a tournament or Games and the objective remains the same and we have set our sights on at least 30 out of 61 golds on offer and this time we are also looking forward to strengthening the friendship, relation and bond through this games," chef de mission Harunur Rashid said at a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association conference room yesterday.

The Games, which was not held in 2009 due to the South Asian Games, is scheduled for March 24 to 27 in Kolkata with contenders fighting for 61 golds in 10 disciplines of athletics, swimming, football, kho kho, kabaddi, basketball, shooting, judo, badminton and gymnastic - the last three disciplines have been included for the first time.

After the SA Games concluded on February 9, the athletes were given a one-month break before the start of the training for the Indo-Bangladesh

Tennis

Croatian veteran Ivan Ljubicic

rallied for a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/1)

triumph over world number

three Rafael Nadal on Saturday

to reach the final of the Indian

number three now ranked 26th

in the world, denied Nadal a

shot at a repeat title and a third

brated his 31st birthday on

Friday, had surprised world

number two and second seed

Novak Djokovic in the fourth

round en route to his first

semifinal since he won the ATP

sixth-seeded Robin Soderling

of Sweden or seventh seeded

Ljubicic now awaits either

In the meantime he could

savour his first victory over

Shafiul's bat

Shafiul believed Bangladesh

are in a position to take a first

innings lead and push the

visitors on the back foot. 'And if

we can do that, we can take a

lead in the first innings," he

swing as well tomorrow. And

they do not play spin that well.

So it's not going to be easy for

They're not

what might help them to be in

such a position of utter domi-

them to score," he said.

**FROM PAGE 17** 

"We may get some reverse

FROM PAGE 17

added.

title in Lyon last October.

American Andy Roddick.

The Croatian, who cele-

Ljubicic, a former world

AFP, Indian Wells

Wells Masters 1000.

in four years.

Bangla Games and the chief of the BOA training committee, Mizanur Rahman Manu said that the athletes got 22 days for training.

Bangladesh Olympic Association, said that they have good chances to do well in swimming (men's and women's), shooting (men's and women's), kabaddi (men's), judo (men's), kho kho (men's) though he was in doubt over athletics (men's and women's), gymnastic (men's and women's), badminton (men's and women's) and football (women's).

Country's top athletes from swimming, athletics, football, kabaddi, judo and shooting have been chosen while youngsters from basketball, badminton, kabaddi have been picked to give them international exposure.

Bangladesh finished behind Kolkata winning 30 golds out of 68 decided in the inaugural meet in 2007 in Kolkata and then established their supremacy on home soil the next year grabbing 45 golds out of 69.

Apart from Harunur Rashid and Manu, BOA secretary general Kutubuddin, BOA vice president Rafia Akhter Dolly and Bangladesh contingent general manager Retd Major Imroz Ahmed were among others present at the press conference.

## in a row PTI, Cuttack

Andrew Symonds purple patch continued as he came up with yet another all-round display to steer defending champions Deccan Chargers to a 10-run win over Delhi Daredevils in a thrilling Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Deccan's 3rd

Symonds first scored a brisk 24-ball 35 and then starred with the ball with figures of three for 21, apart from a coming up with a stunning catch to dismiss dangerman Dinesh Karthik, to guide the Chargers home in the match that saw fortunes fluctuating from one team to the other.

With this win, the Hyderabad outfit has recorded their third consecutive victory in the Twenty20 event after losing the tournament opener against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Daredevils, on the other hand, have slumped to their third defeat on the trot from as many as five outings.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**DECCAN CHARGERS: 171 for** 6 in 20 overs (Sharma 45, Symonds 35, Gibbs 31; Mishra 1/12).

**DELHI DAREDEVILS:** 161 for 9 in 20 overs (Warner 57) Karthik 46; Symonds 3/21, Sharma 2/42).

Result: Deccan Chargers won by 10 runs.

SIX SEASONS CHESS

### Saptarshi on the brink of GM norm

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian IM Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury was on the verge of his last GM norm at the close of the penultimate round of the Six Seasons Chess Tournament at the Tulip Hall of Uttara Club here yesterday.

Saptarshi now needs just half-a-point to achieve his third and final norm of Grandmasters when he takes on his compatriot GM Dibyendu Barua today. Saptarshi has now 6.5

points after beating Bangladesh FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman in the eighth round.

GM Iuldachev Saidali of Uzbekistan was in the second position with six points after beating Bangladesh FM Aminul Islam while GM Niaz Murshed and Dibyendu Barua were in the third position jointly with five points each.

Dibyendu drew against Indian IM Sahaj Grover while FM Minhazuddin Ahmed drew against Praveen Kumar.

### SCOREBOARD

57

61

21

**FROM PAGE 17** Bowler 21

Cook c Imrul b Razzak

Pietersen c Imrul b Shakib

Total: (For three wkts in 64 overs) 171

To bat: Prior, Bresnan, Broad,

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-105, 3-

Collingwood lbw b Rubel

Extras: (b-5, lb-8, nb-3)

Swann, Tredwell, Finn.

Trott not out

Bell not out

the opening frame, and was Broad broken to love in the ninth Bresnan game to surrender the set. Swann 36.1 But after saving four break 10 Finn 31 Tredwell Collingwood 1 **ENGLAND:** First innings

points in the sixth game of the second set, Ljubicic seemed energized, and he got the break he needed to extend the match when Nadal double-faulted on break point in the ninth game. The defeat didn't spell the

He took a 2-1 lead with a 138

mph ace, and a 3-1 lead with a

backhand winner. Three Nadal

miscues saw the Spaniard

facing a 6-1 deficit, and

Ljubicic gave him no time to

climb out of the hole as he

blasted his forehand winner on

to become the first 30-

something since 30-year-old

Andre Agassi in 2001 to capture

gish as he surrendered a break

in the opening game of the

point against Nadal's serve in

Liubicic now has a chance

Ljubicic had looked slug-

He mustered only one break

his first match point.

the title.

match.

end of Nadal's Indian Wells campaign. With compatriot Marc Lopez he was due to play the men's doubles final later Saturday against Canadian Daniel Nestor and Serbian Nenad Zimonjic.



clear of trouble with a 3-1 win over Birmingham City, with Darren Bent scoring twice, but Hull City are stuck in the bottom three after a stunning 3-2 loss at bottom side Portsmouth. Hull led 2-1 with just two minutes to go but Jamie O'Hara and Nwankwo Kanu snatched

Everton moved up to eighth

place after a 2-0 win over Bolton.

Gretar Steinsson was sent off in

the second half and Mikel Arteta

curled in the resultant free kick

before Steven Pienaar sealed

Sunderland moved further

the points late on.

the win for Portsmouth to give the south-coast side - almost certain to be relegated themselves - some much-needed joy. Hugo Rodallega scored in injury time as Wigan edged out Burnley 1-0, leaving the visitors

still in deep trouble, second

from bottom.

NZ v Aus 1st Test

## Bolinger too hot for Kiwis

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

SPORT

New Zealand didn't understand the fuss over Doug Bollinger during the one-day series, but they do now after he put Australia on track for a convincing victory in Wellington. After struggling through the limited-overs engagements and being attacked by the home batsmen, Bollinger has caused a lot of damage on a fine surface during the opening Test. A career-best 5 for 28

helped floor New Zealand for 157 in their first innings, which ended 65 minutes into the third day and left them 302 behind, and Bollinger returned to cause more difficulties during the hosts' improved second effort. Despite Tim McIntosh's obdurate resistance with 83 in 276 minutes, the home side finished at 187 for 5, still needing 115 to make the tourists bat Bollinger has played only

seven Tests, but he was the attack's main man as he recorded the second fivewicket haul of his career and followed up with 2 for 30 off 13 overs. There were five breakthroughs in the day as he finished off the first innings and gave his side some inspiration when the visitors were becalmed in the second session.

Backing up after a demolition is not always easy for the bowlers, who expect to repeat their exploits despite their fatigue. The fast men didn't regain the same opportunities until Bollinger stepped up, dismissing BJ Watling and Peter Ingram (1) in the half hour before tea. Watling, who made an

unsuccessful challenge, was lbw to Bollinger for the second time in the game and walked



ball after taking another New Zealand wicket on the third day of the first Test in Wellington yesterday.

off with 33 in 131 minutes, while Ingram flirted at Bollinger to give Brad Haddin an easy catch. Throughout the day he provided extra speed, bounce and a touch of swing to gain his rewards. In the morning Bollinger,

the third bowler used, struck twice in three balls, adding the victims to his two of the previous afternoon. Brendon McCullum left after trying a wild pull - he was well caught by Harris at fine-leg - and Bollinger then delivered a beautiful shorter ball angling away to brush Martin Guptill's Bollinger's fifth wicket

came when Brent Arnel nicked

Ponting at second slip. In celebration he attempted to kiss the team badge on his shirt - but smooched the sponsor's beer logo instead. New Zealand resumed at a

his first delivery to Ricky

wobbly 108 for 4 and Daniel Vettori started the collapse of 45 for 6 when he edged the debutant Ryan Harris (2 for 42) to Ponting in the day's opening over. They made a better fight of their second innings thanks to the effort of McIntosh, who settled the team during a 70-run opening stand with Watling. McIntosh, the left-hander,

was a great man for the situation and was solid in defence before branching out a little as the afternoon wore on. For most of the time the going was slow, but it was exactly what New Zealand wanted, especially as wickets fell regularly after Watling departed. There were people in the crowd asleep, but they were allowed to dream of a lengthy second innings and possibly some rain over the final two days.

Shortly before his dismissal there were two McIntosh fours in a row off Mitchell Johnson, including a crisp cover drive, in a collection of 10 boundaries and a straight six off Nathan Hauritz. However, his resistance ended when he pushed defensively at Hauritz and inside-edged to Simon Katich at short leg.

New Zealand were 183 for 5 and Vettori found himself in a similar position to when he arrived yesterday. His side was in danger and needed a lot of runs. He had added 18 before stumps, while McCullum was 4 when bad light intervened.

Hauritz, the offspinner, delivered 22 overs in a row after lunch and gained some worrying turn at times. He produced one crucial ball to Ross Taylor that landed in a footmark outside off stump and spun back sharply while keeping low. Taylor, who had earlier hit Hauritz for a six and a four, didn't play a shot and was hit in front of off stump. The Australians challenged successfully after Asad Rauf initially gave it not out and it was another costly lapse on a bad day for New Zealand.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA:** First innings 459

for 5 decl. **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings

157 (Vettori 46, Guptil 30, McCullum 24, Taylor 21; Bollinger 5-28)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 187 for 5 (Watling 33, 18 batting; Bollinger 2-30)

McIntosh 83, Taylor 25, Vettori

## \$ 703m for Pune, Kochi

According to Shirke, the Sahara franchise would have its home ground situated on the outskirts of Pune city, in Gahunje, which is on the Mumbai-Pune expressway. The ground construction is already underway with Shapoorji Pallonji being the main contractors.

He was confident that the ground would be ready in time for the IPL's fourth season when Sahara would unveil its team. "The construction work has already started and it should be ready by March 2011," Shirke said. While Sahara have a long

history of sports sponsorship and are a high-profile corporate group, little is known about the winners of the Kochi franchise. It is a consortium with five partners - the Rendezvous group, Parini developers, Anand Shah Estate, Anchor Earth Private Limited and Film Waves. Minister of state for external affairs Shashi Tharoor was involved in bringing together the group, but has no stake in the franchise.

In fact, Tharoor clarified to Cricinfo that he had no stake in the Kochi franchise and that his role was limited to encouraging the consortium that bagged the team. "My role consisted only of encouraging and blessing the venture, and steering it to Kerala," he told Cricinfo. "Tharoor was involved in

facilitating and trying to get a team for the state," Modi confirmed. "He is an ardent fan of cricket and he has been trying to get people from Kochi to bid for it. I think his involvement ends there.'

Modi said the tournament's organsiers would provide the Kochi franchise a home ground till the Kerala Cricket Association completes construction of its new stadium. "Kerala Cricket Association is in the process of building the infrastructure and as when the stadium is ready teams will play there," he said. "But till the structures are ready, the IPL will provide them with an alternate venue."

Speaking to reporters, Shailendra Gaikwad of Rendezvous World Sport said, "We have closely been following every development within the IPL, right from the inaugural year. Today, I am very happy for our consortium of Rendezvous World Sport and the people of Kochi as we finally have a team to call our own in this amazing city-based sports franchise" While the huge money

offered by the new franchisees shows the health of the IPL, Modi said there were no plans in the near future to further increase the number of teams involved. "We also have no plans to expand further immediately. In fact I

don't foresee an expansion in many, many years to come but then you never know." The IPL will now feature 10

teams and - if the current format is retained - a total of 94 games, from the existing 60. After the first season in 2008, the league has already expanded its reach to other centres such as Cuttack Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Dharamsala.

The franchise auction process was to have been completed on March 7 but was postponed by two weeks after the bidders and the BCC objected to stiff financial clauses.

### **MIRPUR MASALA**

**FROM PAGE 17** 

the first dig came after four years. The last time was against Australia in Fatullah. The first time was of course

in the inaugural Test match against India in 2000 before they reached 416 against West Indies (in 2004), 488 against Zimbabwe (in 2005) and 427 against Australia (in 2006). Out of the previous four

occasions, Bangladesh won the game against Zimbabwe in Chittagong while they lost twice and had drawn in West Indies.

## MU prevail

FROM PAGE 20

half, playing just behind United's lone striker Rooney, but the second period began in very different fashion for the South Korean, who soon made room for himself on the edge of the area and unleashed a shot which forced Reina to save.

However, just before the hour, the Liverpool goalkeeper had no chance with Park's next attempt - a clinical, diving header from no more than six vards which put the home side in front.

Rooney had started the move with an intelligent pass to Fletcher on the right wing and the Scotsman's delivery was

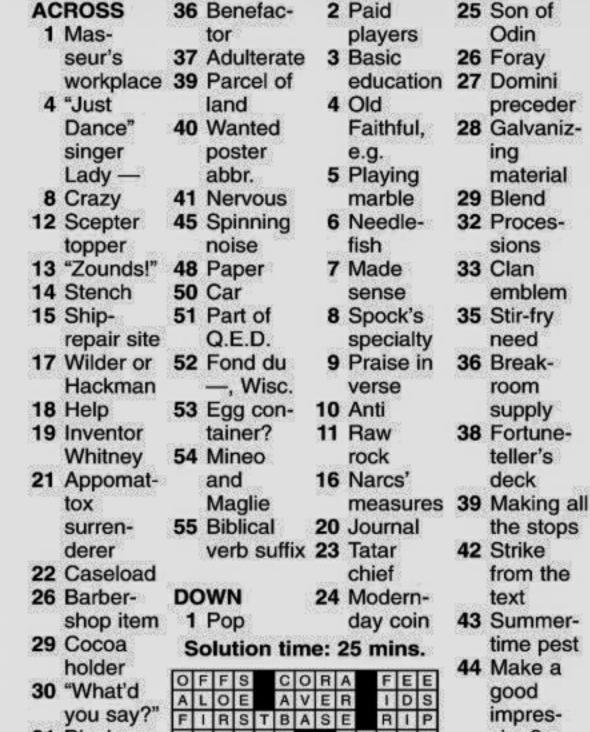
inch-perfect. The earlier threat of violence re-surfaced in the 67th minute when Fletcher was tripped by Kuyt and retaliated with a kick at the Dutchman

which should have brought a yellow, or even red, card but which saw both players merely lectured by Webb. Rooney chipped over and Benitez introduced Alberto

Aquilani and Ryan Babel as Liverpool tried desperately to find some attacking impetus. But Torres wasted their best

hope of an equaliser in the final minute when he completely miscued from eight yards and Yossi Benayoun headed meekly at van der Sar.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



SPEARS NASTY

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RDPUN WPZIO PMZW OBZDU ZBPH PMU IRNEZBJ YXLYOZB, AHX LZJMP WRA

Z'CC MREU R JHNUT JHXNT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A WORM FINDS ITSELF ENCLOSED IN A FUZZY FRUIT, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT'S IMPEACHED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

that achievement. But obviously I'm very frustrated with the way I got out. I wasn't looking at 45, I was eyeing a much bigger score," he added.

#### "It's a flat track and if you didn't try to get out, it's hard to get one out," he said. But the batsman who usually is considered as the back-

bone of England's batting, didn't have a very successful outing. Having survived a very close leg-before appeal against Rubel Hossain, he looped up an easy catch at short cover off the bowling of left-arm spin of Shakib Al Hasan when he was on 45. Four dot balls before that Pietersen had embarked on a rare feat by reaching 5000 Test runs for England, the fourth youngest among Englishmen and the fastest to do so in 60

He was very pleased with the feat but disappointed with the wayhegotout. "It was a great feeling to have

Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia celebrates after beating world number three Rafael Nadal of Spain in the BNP Paribas Open semifinal at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Saturday.

Manu, who is also vice president of