



Mohammedan forward Ariful Haq Prince (R) is under pressure from a Police AC defender during their Dhaka Bank Club Cup match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Prince scored five goals in Mohammedan's 14-1 mauling of Police.

CLUB CUP HOCKEY Five-star Prince

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national striker Ariful Haq Prince slotted the tournament's second hat-trick as Mohammedan Sporting Club put up another spirited show to demolish Police AC 14-1 in their second match of the Dhaka Bank Club Cup Hockey tournament at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Prince struck five goals, Jahidul Islam Rajon, Musa Mia, Sabbir Hossain Rana scored two goal each while Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and Kamruzzaman Rana scored one goal apiece while Rana scored the consolation goal for Police, who lost to Abahani 7-1 in the tournament's opening match.

Star-studded Mohammedan, who blanked Ajax Sporting Club 9-0 in their tournament opener, did not take much time to open the floodgates with Prince finding the target in the very first minute and then scored three successive goals in the third, seventh and 16th minute respectively to complete his hat-trick after Abahani's defender Asaduzzaman Chandan, who also struck thrice against the policemen.

Later, forward Rajan scored two more goal in the 18th and 21st minutes to extend the margin to 6-0 while Rana, Chayan and Sabbir added one goal each to finish the first half with a massive nine-goal lead.

Rana of Police pulled one back three minutes into the second half and that was all before conceding five more goals in the second half with Musa scoring twice and Jimmy, Prince and Rana confirming Mohammedan's semifinal berth with two successive victories.

In the day's first match, Ajax SC came from behind to hold Mariner Youngs Club to a 2-2 draw.

Dhiman Mistri struck twice for the Mariners while Afsar Uddin and Jamal Hossain scored one goal each for Ajax.

'I stand by what I said'



Gautam Gambhir

though. Gambhir wrote he couldn't understand what the over-reaction was about. "For instance, people said we

one said. We picked ourselves up and raised the bar. "I don't believe in saying things I don't mean. If you're looking for platitudes or banal gestures, I don't think you'll get that from me. I don't mean to sound arrogant, I'm not, but I also can't be a hypocrite. More pertinently, I can't be expected to get all worked up about comments made by people who have never picked up a cricket bat in their lives. If I listen to opinions seriously, it is from people who have played the game."



Gautam Gambhir

[Delhi] gave an ordinary performance against Mumbai and we did. But we didn't over-react or fuss about what any-

Gambhir had said at the post-match presentation that besides Yusuf Pathan, the rest of the Rajasthan batsmen were "ordinary". He was later reported by IPL chairman Lalit Modi, but escaped a fine, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 50 per cent of the match fee.

Roddick sets up final against Berdych



Andy Roddick

play more aggressive in the game where he got the break.

"It was a change, and it was surprise for me," Nadal admitted. "After that, in the third, he put more pressure on my serve, attacking more. He's playing really well."

Andy Roddick's decision to take some risks paid off Friday as the American rallied to beat Spain's Rafael Nadal and book a clash with giant-killing Tomas Berdych in the final of the Miami ATP Masters 1000.

Roddick engineered a turnaround to triumph 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 over world number four Nadal, who was the highest seed left in the draw.

Berdych, who saved a match point en route to a stunning upset of world number one Roger Federer in the fourth round, dismantled fifth-seeded Swede Robin Soderling 6-2, 6-2.

Berdych, who said he wanted to be "aggressive but with lots of control" was able to do just that. He broke Soderling four times and faced only one breakpoint himself.

After being pushed around in the first set by Nadal, who will still return to number three in the world on Monday, Roddick realized he would have to do more.

"I took a lot of risks there in the last two sets," Roddick said. "That's what I have to do. My comfort zone of moving the ball around and maybe chip, ping it around a little bit doesn't work against Rafa."

"I had to try to come up with something that at least took him out of his comfort zone a little bit, and it paid off."

Roddick, who finished with 15 aces, began moving to the net with more aggression -- a tactic that Nadal admitted caught him by surprise.

"I started the match playing pretty well," Nadal said. "I had the match under control in the first set with my serve."

"In the second set Andy was serving well, I didn't have a lot of chances on the return."

"He plays a very aggressive game and started to

Nadal had earned the break he needed in the opening set in the third game, saved a breakpoint himself in the next then dominated Roddick in the rallies to pocket the set.

But Roddick wouldn't be broken again. He piled the pressure on and turned the tide late in the second set, breaking Nadal to love to lead 5-3 then serving out with a love game capped by a 143 mph service winner.

In the third, Nadal could make no headway against Roddick's serve. He couldn't convert his one chance to break in the second game, so that Roddick's break in the next game proved key.

Nadal was clearly frustrated in the eighth game, when he managed to push Roddick to duce on his serve. But he netted a backhand to let the American off the hook, and dropped his serve to end the match.

"But the way I rationalized it was, I'm trying to get the upper hand in a rally. It's very tough once we get neutral. I don't hit the ball like him. I hit the ball straight through, and his ball comes up and down and he can switch directions a little bit easier than I can," said Roddick.

"So basically I was sitting here thinking, 'All right, is my second serve my best approach shot against him?' I thought it was."

Roddick, the sixth seed, returns to the final here for the first time since he won the title in 2004.

Berdych reached the second prestigious Masters 1000 final of his career, after winning the Paris title in 2005.

Now he has a chance to become the first Miami men's champion not ranked in the top 10 since Jim Courier in 1991.



Andy Roddick shakes hands with Rafael Nadal after defeating him in three sets in the semifinals of the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Florida on Friday.

Introduction

FROM PAGE 17 information about the players' fitness.

He also informed that five of the six divisional teams have already been sold to franchisees. There would be no auction for the first tournament and salary of the players would be restricted for this single-league tournament.

The national selectors have singled out icon players to make sure that the leading players are distributed equally among the teams. One team can register six foreign players but can field a maximum of two in a match.

With an eye on tuning up the national cricketers for the forthcoming Twenty20 World Championship in West Indies, the board has decided to launch its first-ever NCL T20 competition from April 11 to 20.

BCB has signed a deal with ATN Records to take care of the marketing aspects of the venture.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 and Emon were all tied with six points from seven games.

DIV II CRICKET

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Balaka Sporting Club secured a four-wicket victory over Purba Dashara Cricket XI in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Government Boys' High School playground here yesterday.

Purba Dashara were all out for 113 runs in 21.1 overs and Balaka Sporting reached the target of 114 runs for seven wickets in 19.5 overs.

Singair Cricket Academy (95-1) defeated Bablu Babu Cricket Clinic (93-10) by nine wickets in the day's other match.

Zafar leaves

FROM PAGE 17 Shore Lifeguard Station and will attend a film festival in mid-April where a documentary on his life as a surfer called 'Gum For My Board' will be shown.

Surfing The Nations president Tom Bauer will take care of all his expenses like last year.

Zafar, who hails from a poor family in Baharchhara village of Cox's Bazar district, also took part in competitions in Bali, Indonesia and another in his hometown last October.

His surfing days began in 1997 when he saw an Australian tourist surfing in Cox's Bazar. Zafar followed him to the waves where the Aussie was shocked to see his courage in the rough waters. Zafar bought the surfing board for \$20 and taught himself the surface water sport for the next five years.

"My goal is to make surfing popular in Bangladesh. I will tell people in Hawaii that Cox's Bazar is suitable for the sport," said Zafar who also raised the organisation Bangladesh Surfing Club that has 78 members now.

Inter thrash

FROM PAGE 20 But Daniele Ragatzu levelled matters 10 minutes later with a low shot from just inside the area.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar restored Milan's advantage two minutes after that with a long range effort into the top corner but Italy international goalkeeper Federico Marchetti looked like he should have done better.

SRK U-turn on Sourav

INTERNET, undated



Sourav Ganguly

In T20, things happen fast off the field too. One innings by Sourav Ganguly has changed the tone of Shah Rukh Khan's tweets and after being critical of him for referring to the toss following the defeat against the Delhi Daredevils, the team's co-owner is back praising the skipper.

"Dada led from the front. Team being young, I told him sometimes leaders need to follow and bring up the rear too. He will 'korbo lorbo jeetbo,'" Shah Rukh posted on his Twitter page.

"Team has to develop enthusiasm and love of winning. [Chris] Gayle and David [Hussey] looking good. The Indian boys rearing to try their hand," he wrote before flying to Malaysia. He would be back for the Sunday show against Kings XI Punjab.

It is sure to create a frenetic atmosphere at the Eden Gardens and Ganguly said after Thursday's

win against the Deccan Chargers that the home fixtures are going to be more important. "Apart from the support, you know the conditions and can plan accordingly. We've got some more home matches (four out of six) and need to win them."

Apart from his stunning innings, Ganguly's bowlers made perfect use of the slowish pitch and mixed things up cleverly to stifle the Deccan charge.

"Ganguly set the tone but they bowled very well in the middle and late overs. We were ahead in run rate and also had wickets, but they varied the pace, bowled yorkers," said Adam Gilchrist.

No marks for guessing what gave the bowlers a good total to defend. In between biting nails after the match, Ganguly was emotionless, like he has been off the field several times after performing under pressure. "I've never looked at life that way. You're always under pressure... even Sachin Tendulkar is. You've got to get on with the game."

Sania knows all the truth

FROM PAGE 17 "Geo TV" quoted sources in Shoaib's family that the marriage has been shifted to Dubai because his family is not keen on coming to India.

The channel reported Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray's threat has scared them and the Ayesha issue is also a factor.

Thackeray had lambasted Sania for choosing a Pakistani as her life partner, saying she would not remain an Indian posther marriage.

Adding to the couple's woes is Ayesha's legal notice to Shoaib for marrying her over phone and dumping her without taking a formal divorce.

Shoaib, who was reportedly playing in a Twenty20 league in Bangladesh, has added to the whole drama surrounding the much-anticipated wedding by landing in Hyderabad much ahead of schedule. The exact reasons for his visit to Sania's residence are not known.

Television channels showed pictures of Malik talking animatedly on his phone at the

balcony where Sania and her mother were also involved in a discussion.

Meanwhile, Mirza backed Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik on the matter, saying that she and her family have known the truth all along.

Although she did not mention Shoaib directly, Sania's latest twitter feed clearly supported her husband-to-be, who has been accused of cheating a Hyderabad girl Ayesha Siddiqui after a telephonic nikah.

"Me and my family know what the truth is, we've known it all along and we have confidence in god's justice," Sania said.

The 24-year-old has been flayed by the Shiv Sena and some other right wing parties for deciding to marry the Pakistani all-rounder.

Getting ready for the "biggest day" of her life, Sania said she never thought she would have to deal with so many things apart from the regular pre-wedding jitters.

"Too much going on, never in my life thought that I'd had to worry about anything of this sort, rather than my mehendi!" she said.

"Leaves me with no choice but to laugh. I am pretty sure these are not the pre-wedding jitters or butterflies in the stomach my married cousins were talking about!" she quipped.

Meanwhile, Shoaib's family has got in touch with Delhi-based criminal lawyer Ramesh Gupta, who has been representing them in the battle with the Siddiquis for the past two years.

Ayesha's family alleges that Shoaib married her over phone but dumped her later due to her weight problems. Shoaib, however, insists that it was the Siddiquis who cheated him.

The 28-year-old has said he was sent photographs of a girl who is not Ayesha and that he was only engaged to that girl but backed out after finding out that he had been duped.

Chelsea overtake MU

FROM PAGE 17 penalty appeals, Park Ji-Sung tumbling, somewhat theatrically, under a challenge from Yuri Zhirkov and Berbatov behaving up-ended by Frank Lampard, who looked to have played the ball fractionally before he swept the Bulgarian's standing leg away.

In between those two, Chelsea had what looked like a stronger penalty claim of their own turned down after Neville barged Anelka off the ball inside the area, while the threat posed by Malouda was underlined by the bookings both Neville and Scholes received

for fouls on the Frenchman. United appeared oddly listless but Fletcher injected a note of urgency as the hour approached, driving through the middle to create a shooting opportunity for Park.

The South Korean sliced his effort wide but United took the half-chance as their cue to move up a gear. Berbatov was narrowly off target with headers from Giggs and Neville deliveries from the right while Evra forced Cech to flap at an equally menacing cross from the opposite flank.

United had another penalty appeal waved away when

Antonio Valencia headed a Giggs free-kick against the upper arm of Malouda.

That looked like it might be a last chance for the champions after Droghda, who looked to have drifted fractionally offside, collected fellow substitute Salomon Kalou's pass and hammered an unstoppable finish past van der Sar at his near post.

Nani and Macheda, combined to give the home side a lifeline but United never seriously threatened to produce the equaliser that would have kept them at the top of the table with five matches to play.

Nasir treble powers

FROM PAGE 17 Playing as a right-winger, Nasir doubled the lead in the 13th minute with a gentle tap off a Wali Faisal cross from the left before Shuktara conceded an own goal in the 32nd minute when Dulal's attempted clearance took a deflection from Mohammedan's Komol and made it 3-0.

Two minutes later, Komol, set by Emily, struck his second and team's fourth goal to go for a comfortable break.

After resumption, it seemed Mohammedan would take the rest of the game lightly, but they pushed harder and demolished the opponent completely though Shuktara brought two changes to strengthen their backline, but they finally

could not avert the assault from the Motijheel outfit.

Emily, who remained goalless for five matches as well as nine successive international matches, finally found the back of the net when he rose high to head Zahid's corner to extend the lead to 5-0 and Nasir then struck his second goal in the 71st minute before completing the hat-trick four minutes later with a superb volley from inside the danger zone.

Mohammedan now have 36 points from 14 games, four less than leaders Abahani while Shuktara are in the relegation zone with seven points from 14 matches.

TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul

Haque (MN Shakil), Wali Faisal, Ariful Islam, Nasirul Islam (Mofazzal Hossain Saikat), Hasan Al Mamun (Mamun Mia), Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Abdul Baten Komol, Enamul Haque Sharif, Zahid Hasan Emily and Nasir Chowdhury.

SHUKTARA: Rashed Chowdhury Raju (Al Amin), Sohridul Islam Dulal, Biplob Das (Mohiuddin) Rezaul Karim Liton, Robin Hossain, Idris Mutebi, Iddi Batambuze, Abul Kashem, Sujjan Ahmed (Shahriar Abdullah Rintu), M Sohel and Mohammad Ullah Dalim.

Yellow cards: Komol (Mohammedan), Iddi (Shuktara)

Referee: Azad Rahman

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 10x11 grid of letters and a clue: 'Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals U'.