Siddikur in 32nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman was placed 32nd on the leaderboard with a par score of 144 and six shot off the leaders after two rounds of play in the Hero Honda Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Club yesterday.

Siddikur scored par in both rounds of the 72-hole tournament. However, the first round score had him in 37th place while the second round performance saw him push five places up the leaderboard.

Korean youngster Baek Seuk-hyun and England's Simon Griffiths were sharing the lead in the \$1.25-million event with six-under par 138. A shot behind was India's surprise package Manav Jaini, American duo Anthony Kang and Ben Fox and Sweden's Rikard Karlberg.

SL-WI 3RD TEST

Rain spoils Day 3

CRICINFO

It was all one-way traffic at Pallekele Stadium as rain dominated proceedings on day three. An intense period of sustained drizzle, highlighted by two spectacular, heavy downpours meant that most of the players didn't even arrive at the ground and the media twiddled their thumbs for much of the day.

The inclement weather struck early, taking out any chance of a prompt start with a light shower that petered out into an extended period of drizzle at around 9 am. Hope of play in the first session was the next to go, falling prey to an expertly crafted ploy by the clouds over Pallekele, that tempted fans with a glimpse of blue sky before storming back with a devastating deluge at around 10:30 am. The rain wasn't about to relent either, ensuring the covers remained firmly on with steady drizzle, before coming hard again at around 1pm to all but wash out the cricket on day three.

Match referee Alan Hurst was forced to call off play just before 3pm but expect bad weather, which has been utterly ascendant during the tour so far, to put in another strong performance on

Athletics at divisional level

SPORTS REPORTER

Saturday.

The Bangladesh Athletics Federation is planning to hold competitions at divisional level in a bid to picking up talented athletes for the 2012 South Asian Games, said a federation official vesterday.

"We have lacked quality athletes for the last few years and we want to fill the vacuum by picking up promising players from the upcoming athletics competition from all six divisional headquarters," said BAF general secretary Shah Alam.

Alam informed that they have already asked the divisional sports associations to take steps to hold the competition and necessary support would be provided by the federation.



Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will be compet-

ing with the likes of tennis star Rafael Nadal and

Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel for the 2011

Cricket Council Player of the Year, will also have

to fight it out with spin legend Sri Lanka's

Iniesta and Lionel Messi will also hope to

become the first ever team player to win this

through out the year. He became the first man to

score a double century in a One Day

International in February, hitting an unbeaten

200 for India against South Africa. He also

became the first man to score 14,000 runs in Test

Muttiah Muralidaran for the prestigious award.

Tendulkar, who was named International

Star footballers like Diego Forlan, Andres

Tendulkar has been very consistent all

Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award.

cricket during the second Test against Australia in Bangalore in October.

It was his 171st Test match, in which he also scored his 49th Test century. Muralidaran, on the other hand, took his world record 800th Test wicket on the final day of his career in Galle in July 2010, to stay 92 wickets ahead of his nearest rival, Australia's retired leg-spinner Shane Warne.

The Laureus World Sports Awards, which recognise sporting achievement during 2010, are the premier honours on the international sporting calendar.

The names of the six Nominees for the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award, as voted by the Laureus Media Selection Panel, will be announced in early January.

The eventual winner will then be chosen from that list of Nominees by the Laureus World Sports Academy, the ultimate sports jury, made up of 46 of the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen of all time, and will be unveiled during a televised Awards Ceremony in Abu Dhabi on Monday, February 7.

Anderson swings England

FROM PAGE 17

individual Award.

ripsnorter to get rid of Michael Clarke for 2.

Clarke looked horribly out of sorts in Brisbane, and in truth he was unlucky to even get an edge to Anderson on this occasion, as the ball hooped in towards him and then jagged away. Clarke reached forward, trying to smother the movement with a positive drive, and his thick edge was taken at second slip by Swann. Clarke has been working with Ponting in the nets during the week, but emulating his dismissal was not the idea.

It was a wonderful start from Anderson, who bowled well in at the Gabba without luck, and not since an Ashes Test in Brisbane in 1950 had Australia scored so few runs for the loss of their first three wickets. Marcus North and Haddin, who had been settling in for a quiet morning, were frantically searching for bats and pads to prepare for a potentially early entry.

Fortunately for them, Hussey and Watson launched a counterattack. There were a few more nervy moments for Australia - Watson survived an lbw review on 7 and Anderson put down a tough return chance when Hussey had 3 - but the pair got through until lunch unscathed.

However, just as he had in the first session, Anderson struck early in the second, with another good outswinger that drew Watson (51) in to a drive that was taken at gully by Kevin Pietersen. While Hussey kept building at the other end, looking as assured as he did during his 195 last week, Marcus North poked and prodded his way to 26, before a lapse in judgment gave Steven Finn his first wicket.

North tried to open the face and guide Finn past the cordon, only to feather a catch through to Matt Prior. It ended a 60-run stand that was useful, but on a flat pitch this was North's best chance to silence the critics who point to his

poor results in sticky situations for Australia. Mitchell Johnson and Ben Hilfenhaus, who were dropped for this Test, know the selectors are no longer willing to carry passengers and North deserves to be nervous.

All the while, Hussey kept finding the gaps,

although England's bowlers didn't feed his pull

as they had in Brisbane, which was a wise move given the tiny square boundaries in Adelaide. Before the first Test, Hussey's brother David tipped him to be the leading scorer in the series and although not many fans had the same faith, he has been unquestionably Australia's best batsman so far. But Swann denied Hussey a second century of the series with a magnificent piece of bowling, curving the ball in from around the wicket to

entice a cover drive. The ball spun further than Hussey expected, and his edge was snapped up at first slip by Paul Collingwood. Swann was on a hattrick when he had Ryan Harris lbw first ball; Harris asked for a review, confident he had edged the ball, but Hot Spot was not definitive. Swann couldn't match Peter Siddle's opening-day hat-trick at the Gabba, but his 2 for 70

was a good reward on a day when he kept one end tight. Neither Finn nor Stuart Broad were at their best, but both claimed a wicket; Broad's dismissal of Haddin, caught at fine-leg for an entertaining 56 ended Australia's innings.

It denied Anderson the chance for a fivewicket haul, which he deserved, but none of the England players would worry about such trifles. They know that with four days to play, on a good surface, the match is theirs for the taking.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 245 (Watson 51, Hussey 93, North 26, Haddin 56; Anderson 4-51, Swann 2-70)

Extras: (lb-3, w-5)

Total: (All out in 46.2 overs)

ENGLAND: First innings 1 for no loss.

Razzak bowls into history

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defend the ball. In his own words, Razzak revealed his plan for the hattrick ball saying, "It was almost what I wanted to do. I tried to hit the stumps but I was happy with the leg-before nonetheless."

The fateful ball hit low on the front pad, the batsman's leg-stump in full view of the umpire and within a moment that saw the raised finger, Razzak joined Pakistan's Saglain Mushtag as only the second spinner to take a hattrick in one-day international cricket.

"I am very, very happy. I think I should be extremely happy," he said, several hours after the achievement. He also became the second Bangladeshi to take an ODI hattrick (after Shahadat Hossain) and the third overall (taking Alok Kapali's Test hattrick into account).

He was probably aware of the Bangladeshi side of the feat but only learned of the real significance of his effort from the media. "I knew about

all this after the match," admitted Razzak about joining Saqlain's exclusive club. later on about what I did. When I was out in the middle, I

didn't know anything about these records."

Though he joked at the post-match press meet that he would dedicate his feat to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (51 wickets from 29 games), it is Mohammad Salahuddin to whom Razzak owes a lot.

"I am grateful to Salahuddin bhai. He has always backed me with small technical stuff but more importantly, he believed in me. He knows me for a long time, since I was a teenager actually so I am indebted to him," said Razzak.

For the record, Razzak also joined Bruce Reid, Wasim Akram and Chaminda Vaas, as the fourth left-arm bowler to take an ODI hattrick. If not a genius like the Pakistani, the best Razzak can do is replicate the prolific Lankan and to be safe, avoid the beanpole Aussie's fate.

The hattrick usually is the pinnacle of a bowler's career while for a few it could become a starting point, especially ahead of an important phase in their career. Definitely the latter is true for Razzak who had a terrible first half of 2010 taking only "I heard it from you guys eleven wickets from 14 matches. Against New Zealand last month, he was slowly com-

ing back to form with five wickets and now against Zimbabwe, he has already taken nine in two

The left-arm spinner had to resurrect his career after receiving a ban for suspect bowling action in 2008, marring most of that season and the next. Since coming back from the hiatus, he took some time to get his rhythm going.

"I have always said that it would take some time to regain what I had before, after making changes to those things. It's not easy to do everything like before in a short time," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second oneday international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday: **ZIMBABWE**

Meth c & b Shakib

Price lbw b Razzak

Taylor c Rokibul b Shakib 28 Chibhabha c Mushfigur b Shafiul Chakabva st Mushfiqur b Razzak 21 Dabengwa c & b Shakib 30 Taibu lbw b Razzak 21 42 Ervine not out Chigumbura b Shakib 7 Utseya c Naeem b Razzak 32

Man-of-the-match: Abdur Razzak.

0 Mpofulbw b Razzak

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-50, 3-

56, 4-104, 5-114, 6-132, 7-189,

8-190, 9-191, 10-191. Bowler Mashrafe Shafiul 28 9.2 Razzak Shakib 39 27 Naeem Sohrawardi 10 0 47

BANGLADESH Tamim c Mpofu b Price

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Imrul c Ta	1	10		
Junaed st'	e	53		
Rokibul st Ta	va	65		
Shakib no		9		
Mushfiqu	7			
Extras: (Îb		6		
Total: (For 4	ers)	194		
Did not ba				afe,
Razzak, Sł	nafiul,	Sohra	ward	li.
Fall of wi	ckets:	1-26,	2-75	, 3-
147, 4-187				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Utseya	8	0	50	0
Mpofu	7	0	31	1

				(C-34742)
owler	O	M	R	W
Itseya	8	0	50	0
1pofu	7	0	31	1
leth	4.4	0	32	0
rice	9	1	41	2
abengwa	7	0	17	1
hibhabha	2	0	11	0
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esult: Bar	iglad	esh v	von l	oy 6
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New Zealand today.

0

Division-II football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Garpara Association emerged champions in the Second Division Football League with a convincing 3-1 win over Kowri KCH Muslim Sporting Club at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Chanchal gave Garpara a 17th minute lead before Arif levelled for Kowri KCH Muslim Sporting in the 33rd minute. However, two minutes later, Garpara went ahead again with a goal from Shawon. Sohagh sealed the fate of the game in the 58th minute.

A total of 24 teams participated in this edition's second division football league in Manikganj.

Gambhir warns against complacency 3rd ODI against **NZ** today

PTI, Vadodara

India might be comfortably placed to wrap up the fivematch series going into the third ODI against New Zealand with a 2-0 lead on Saturday, but skipper Gautam Gambhir warned Friday about the dangers of complacency creeping into the mindset of his team.

"I have always felt players need to be wary from becoming complacent. We are going to see it now as three-match series.

New Zealand are a dangerous one day side and we are looking forward to the contest," said the India captain at his pre-match media conference at the Reliance Stadium on Friday.

"I am not thinking about South Africa. My focus is on the series at hand and Saturday's match."

Lara aims for IPL stint

REUTERS, Singapore

Former West Indian captain Brian Lara wants to take part in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) next year after ending his three-year retirement from cricket recently.

Lara, 41, a former Wisden Cricketer of the Year and one of the finest batsman to play the game, retired from all forms of cricket after the 2007 World Cup in West Indies but returned in October to play in the ZimbabweTwenty20league.

"If I was to give myself a chance to play in the IPL, then I need to start now," Lara told Cricinfo on Friday. "I am not going to say that I am ready for the IPL. The option is around the corner, and I have put my name in the hat."

Cornered tigers roar

FROM PAGE 17

Their mercurial nature aside, the squad had the personnel to beat anyone on their day. The redoubtable Imran Khan was probably the only one with the strength of personality required to forge a cohesive unit out of some talented but volatile individuals. Rameez Raja and Aamer Sohail were the opening batsman. Rameez was a dependable and stylish player, particularly strong on the leg side. He scored two centuries, including the highest score of the tournament, an unbeaten 119 against New Zealand at Christchurch..The hot-headed Aamer also scored a century against Zimbabwe at Hobart. Both of them were among the top ten run-getters for the tournament.

The middle order consisted of the great streetfighter Javed Miandad, the talented Saleem Malik, a young Ijaz Ahmed who was useful with the bat and brilliant on the field, and an unknown player called Inzamam ul Haq, who served notice of his talent with a 37-ball 60 against New Zealand in the semis to take Pakistan through to the finals.

Imran Khan slotted in at the allrounder's position, but he was good enough with the willow to bat as high as number three, which he did with great success in the semifinal and final, scoring 44 and an unbeaten 72 respectively.

The bowling was possibly the most balanced of the tournament. Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed provided striking power at the start of the innings. Wasim turned in a man-of-the-match performance in the finals, bowling Allan Lamb and Chris Lewis of England off successive deliveries that swung prodigiously to rattle the stumps. He also equalled the record for the highest wickets taken in a World Cup with 18. Mushtaq Ahmed, the mesmerising leg-spinner, who also played a crucial part in the final with three wickets, was the slow bowler of choice. Imran Khan, who no longer had the pace that made him such a fearsome prospect a few years ago, still had enough experience to keep things tight. Aamir Sohail's part time left arm spin was also good enough for him to support the main bowlers and in some matches, including the final, he even bowled his full quota.

After qualifying for the semis by the skin of their teeth, Pakistan did not look back, and under the lights at the MCG on 25 March, they became World Champions, beating third-time finalists England by 22 runs.

'Pakistan not fully ready'

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan's one-day captain Shahid Afridi said Friday he was not fully satisfied with preparations for next year's World Cup, acknowledging low ICC Cricket World Cup expectations of victory.

Afridi expressed reservations in the light of problems that have dogged Pakistan's recent tours with players disciplined and dragged into damaging spot-fixing allegations.

"I am not 100 percent satisfied with the team's preparations for the World Cup," Afridi told reporters at a local function. "We've had problems on every tour, and although there

aren't high expectations (of winning the World Cup), as captain I'm positive and will keep on motivating the team," said Afridi. His comments came one day after manager Intikhab Alam said Pakistan was capable of winning the World Cup -- to be

jointly hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka from February 19 to April 2. Key players Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammed Aamer -- suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC)

over spot-fixing charges during the Lord's Test against England in August -- are unlikely to make the team.

The trio appear before an ICC commission next month and face the prospect of severe punishment, including lengthy bans. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also failed to clear wicketkeeper batsman Kamran Akmal and all-rounder Shoaib Malik

for the upcoming tour of New Zealand, reportedly because of

suspicions of fixing. "You should ask the PCB and selection committee about why Kamran and Malik were not picked," said Afridi.

"Both are good players and have been doing well in domestic matches."

Pakistan have until December 19 to select a provisional 30man World Cup squad which should be trimmed down to 15 by January 19.

him win back form. "I think he would have learnt from his mistakes," said Afridi

Afridi said Malik was dropped from previous tours to help

of Malik, who was Pakistan's captain from April 2007 to January 2009 but has suffered some shortcomings in his game. Both Malik and Kamran have expressed disappointment at

not being picked. Pakistan play three Twenty20, two Tests and six one-day on their tour of New Zealand starting December 26 -- their last

assignment before the World Cup. Pakistan are placed in Group A of the 14-team competition along with defending champions Australia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Canada, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

India, South Africa, Bangladesh, England, the West Indies, Ireland and the Netherlands are in Group B of the event, which runs from February 19-April 2.

PCB accused of favouritism

Cricket

ANI, Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is indulging in favouritism in the national team's selection, by including its "blue-eved players" in the squads and showing the door to the rest, a Pakistani newspaper has said. "When Shoaib Malik was not

performing, he was kept in the team because he was enjoying the backing of PCB chief at that time, but now he has been discarded even when he is scoring runs in the domestic cricket, The Nation reported.

"Therefore one can ask about the reasons behind his non-selection in the team. There is a visible lack of consistency in the team performance ever since the incumbent Chairman took the driving seat of the PCB," the paper said. "The rule being applied in

the team selection process is that the blue-eyed players get the nod of the selectors while the rest are shown the door," the paper added. According to the paper, during Pakistan's tour of England, three players-Salman

Butt, Muhammad Aamir and

Muhammad Asif - were "spot-

ted baselessly in a match-fixing

scandal by a British tabloid,

which is not the authentic paper to be trusted upon." "If someone is accused of

any wrongdoing, then it is the responsibility of the accuser to prove its claim in the court of law. But in this case nothing has been proved so far despite lapse of around three months,

"This looks a politically motivated move against the top Pakistani players who can turn the whole situation of the match individually, especially the match-winning bowlers Aamir and Asif," it added.

the paper said.

It noted that the wickets in New Zealand support seam bowlers like Aamir and Asif, as both are capable of destroying the batting order of the opposition. But both are not included in the squads announced for the New Zealand tour, as they are currently under suspension by the International Cricket Council over spotfixing allegations.

Five to get FROM PAGE 17

have been named for the silver awards.

The AFC had earlier asked its member countries to send names of proven organizers with a view to rewarding them

for their contribution to foot-

The silver awardees will however receive their awards on home soil in convenient time in presence of an executive committee member of the AFC.



India fast bowler Zaheer Khan stretches during a training session in Vadodara yesterday. India will play third ODI against