

Siddikur gallops to title

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman completed a remarkable wire-to-wire triumph at the Grameenphone Bangladesh Masters on Sunday and reiterated his desire of spearheading the continued growth of golf in the country.

Siddikur posted a final round score of three-under-par (69) for a 19-under-par (269) total to run away with the title at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Milon Ahmed of Bangladesh secured second position with a 72 for a total of 281, twelve strokes behind Siddikur while amateur Mohammad Jakiruzzaman (68), also of Bangladesh and flamboyant Japanese prospect Yosuke Tsukada (74) shared third place with a 284 total.

"I want to dedicate my victory to Bangladesh. This is the first time the Asian Development Tour is organized here and it was great exposure for the professional golfers in Bangladesh," said Siddikur, who won 13,125 US dollars for winning the 75,000-dollar event.

Siddikur got off to a strong start, sinking three consecutive birdies from the first hole before returning with three further birdies against as many bogeys.

Since his victory at the Brunei Open last season, Siddikur has continued to fly the Bangladeshi flag on the international stage and he is determined to continue his mission in the new Asian Tour season.

The Grameenphone Bangladesh Masters is the curtain raiser for the 2011 Asian Development Tour. The top three players on the Order of Merit at the end of the season will earn their Asian Tour cards for 2012.



Siddikur Rahman poses with the winner's trophy at the end of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Masters at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Aus annihilate Eng

Cricket

APP, Perth

Australia wrapped up an emphatic 6-1 series win over a weary England with a comprehensive 57-run win in the seventh and final one-day international at the WACA Ground in Perth on Sunday.

The home side made 279-7 after winning the toss, and in reply England managed just 222 in their final match of a marathon Ashes tour, despite a lusty unbeaten 60 by Michael Yardy.

The English, who now return home for a few days of rest before departing for the World Cup next weekend, were never in the hunt after opener Andrew Strauss and Steven Davies both fell for ducks to leave them struggling at 5-2.

Jonathan Trott and Kevin Pietersen tried to re-start the innings, but the loss of both their wickets and that of Ian Bell left England on 64-5 and their hopes in tatters.

Mitchell Johnson claimed 3-18 for the home side and the wayward Shaun Tait 3-48, but he also conceded nine wides and five no-balls.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, half-centuries by Perth natives David Hussey and man-of-the-match Adam Voges helped the home side

recover from a slow start to post an imposing total.

Australia rested Michael Clarke and Shane Watson, and were 103-4 in the 26th over when stand-in captain Cameron White was dismissed for 24.

However Hussey and Voges then brought their experience in local conditions to the crease to accelerate the Australian innings, putting on 95 in 83 balls.

Voges, recalled for his first game of the series and not named in Australia's 15-man World Cup squad, remained unbeaten on 80 not out, while Hussey made 60.

It was Voges' highest score in his 15 one-day internationals and came from just 72 balls.

The Australian innings got off to a controversial start when recalled opener Tim Paine was given out lbw to Liam Plunkett, flown in from the Caribbean just for the final game, for five on review.

The Virtual Eye system said he was hit in line and that the ball was going on to hit the stumps, even though Paine had advanced well down the pitch by the time the ball struck his pad.

Although the English dropped a couple of sharp chances, they also held two magnificent catches.

Opener Brad Haddin (27) was superbly caught by an alert Steve Finn on the long-on boundary from the bowling of Michael Yardy.

Finn caught it inside the boundary rope, but his momentum carried him over the marker, forcing him to throw the ball up in the air and step back inside the rope to complete the catch.

Matthew Prior, who handed the wicketkeeping gloves to the recalled Davies, took a classic on the mid-wicket boundary to remove Mitchell Johnson for 26 from the bowling of James Anderson (3-48).

Prior leapt backwards as he retreated towards the boundary to snare the catch well above his head.

England went into the match without creative batsman Eoin Morgan, who is in doubt for the World Cup due to a finger injury.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 279 for 7 (Voges 80 not out, D. Hussey 60, Haddin 27; Anderson 3-48, Plunkett 2-49, Yardy 2-59)

ENGLAND: 222 all out (Yardy 60 not out, Prior 39, Pietersen 26; Johnson 3-18, Tait 3-48, Krejza 2-53)

Result: Australia won by 57 runs and clinched seven-match series 6-1.

Man-of-the-match: Adam Voges.

Man-of-the-series: Shane Watson.

SL sweep series

Cricket

APP, Colombo

Ajantha Mendis and Thisara Perera shared seven wickets as Sri Lanka posted a 26-run win over the West Indies in the third one-day international on Sunday to clinch the series 2-0.

Sri Lanka showed the depth of their bowling line-up by defending their total of 277-9 and restricting the tourists to 251 despite resting attack spearheads Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran and Nuwan Kulasekara for the match.

Unorthodox spinner Mendis finished with 4-46 and seamer Perera with 3-36, while paceman Dilshan Fernando took 2-45.

Sri Lanka won the second match by eight wickets after the opening game was abandoned due to rain.

Perera strengthened his team's position when he removed well-set Darren Bravo (79) and skipper Darren Sammy (three) in the space of five balls.

Mendis took the last three wickets, including that of Carlton Baugh, to complete the win, depriving Baugh (49) of his maiden half-century in one-day internationals.

Darren Bravo sustained his team's hopes with a 125-run stand for the third wicket with Ramnaresh Sarwan (51) after openers Chris Gayle and Adrian Barath had fallen with no

runs on the board.

Gayle was bowled first ball by Fernando, while Barath was caught behind in Perera's opening over.

Darren Bravo and Sarwan applied themselves well to keep the Sri Lankan attack at bay for more than 22 overs, playing some attractive shots during their partnership.

The West Indies wobbled after the dismissal of Sarwan, trapped leg-before by left-arm spinner Rangana Herath, as they lost four wickets in the space 34 runs, including those of Darren Bravo and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (three).

Darren Bravo fell leg-before to Perera after cracking one six and nine fours in a 91-ball knock, his highest in 13 one-dayers.

Man-of-the-match Sangakkara earlier made a solid 75 to help his side set a challenging target despite Sulieman Benn's maiden four-wicket haul.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 277 for 9 (Sangakkara 75, Jayawardene 44, Tharanga 39, Matthews 39 not out; Benn 4-38, Bravo 2-58)

WEST INDIES: 251 all out (Darren Bravo 79, Sarwan 51, Baugh 49; Mendis 4-46, Perera 3-36, Fernando 2-45)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 26 runs and clinched three-match series 2-0 with one game abandoned due to rain.

Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Man-of-the-series: Upul Tharanga.

Mini World Cup begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Mirpur Bangla School and College beat Scholastica in the opening match of the Mini Cricket World Cup, a tournament for the different schools of Dhaka and Chittagong, at the Dharmundi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In the other matches, Dhaka Ideal School, Willes Little Flower School and Rayer Bazar High School won their respective matches.

Former national captain and current selector Akram Khan was present as the chief guest in the inauguration programme while BCB senior vice-president and COC (Central Organising Committee) convenor Mahbubul Anam.

Rahmatganj

FROM PAGE 16

Shohel Rana controlled the ball through his chest before firing it home from inside the box.

The Farashganj players protested the ruling of the referee, resulting in a momentary stoppage. However, the game resumed and finished without further incident.

Away at the Cox's Bazar Stadium, Brothers Union posted their second victory to leapfrog to fifth position with nine points after beating hosts Chittagong Abahani 2-0, thanks to second-half strikes from Enock Bentil and Everton.

Chittagong Abahani are at the bottom with two points after suffering five defeats in seven games.

We need

FROM PAGE 16

match against Canada.

"I am satisfied with what we are doing. It has been good two weeks, one in centre-wicket at Mirpur and another in Chittagong, the last three days were really good.

"Centre-wicket, under lights, lots of batting and bowling. Now we'll be toning it down a little bit and get ready to play the practice match," said Siddons.

Shakib

FROM PAGE 16

responding to the global AIDS crisis.

Speakers informed that under the programme of Think Wise, key messages about HIV and AIDS have already been spread to 60 schools in Dhaka and Chittagong, two cities where the matches of the Cricket World Cup will take place, and road shows in 60 districts were held, as well as community-based cricket tournaments.

Butt, Aamer to appeal

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Salman Butt and Mohammad Aamer returned to Pakistan on Sunday and pledged to clear their names of corruption charges that earned them bans of at least five years each from an International Cricket Council (ICC) tribunal.

Former Test captain Butt and pace bowlers Aamer and Mohammad Asif were found guilty of corruption by the tribunal on Saturday in Doha.

Butt was banned for 10 years with five of them suspended if the 26-year-old does not re-offend and takes part in a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) anti-corruption campaign.

Asif, 28, was banned for seven years with two suspended under the same terms as Butt, while 18-year-old Aamer was given a straight five-year ban.

Only Aamer, whose lawyer said he would appeal, has a realistic chance of playing international cricket again.



Disgraced former Pakistan captain Salman Butt walks out of the Lahore airport after returning from Doha yesterday.

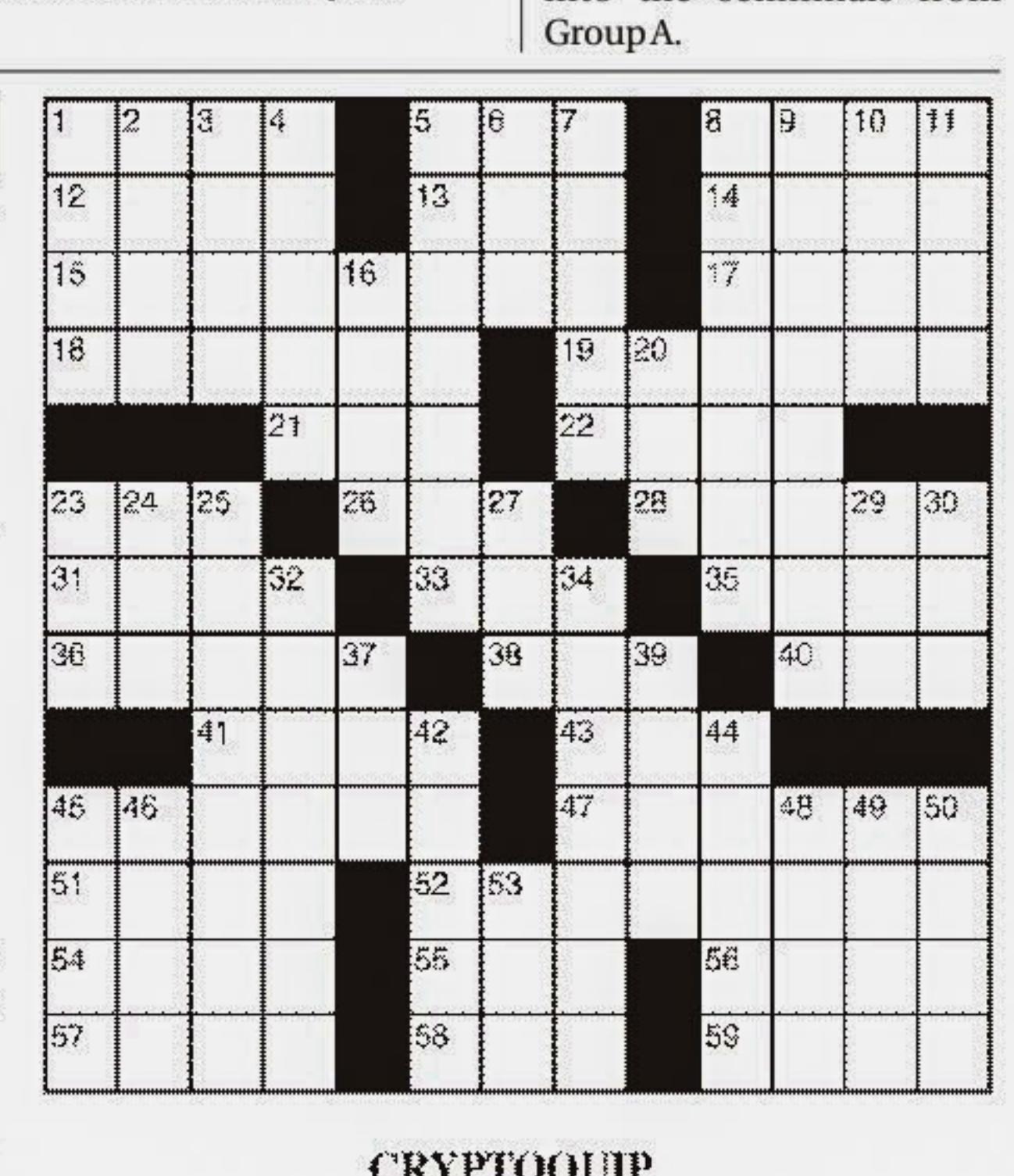
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 King of Crete 57 Black 10 Shrek, for one 11 Stocking stuffers? 16 Phony 20 Discoverer's cry 23 \$ dispenser 24 Miss Piggy's pronoun 25 Sex Pistols' genre 27 Excessively 29 Shrill bark 30 "Mayday" 32 Monarchs 34 Factor in Marilyn's "Seven Year Itch" pose 37 Crafty 39 Abound 42 English composition 44 Restraints 45 Skirt length 46 Valhalla VIP 48 Satan's purchase 49 Beige 50 Terrier type 53 Coloration

38 Make a decision 58 Still 59 Turn on a pivot 40 CDs' fore-runners 41 "South Park" kid 43 Year-end abbr. 45 Mediter-ranean eels 47 Gets more out of 51 "American" — 52 St. Patrick's Day emblem 6 Always, in verse 7 Central portion 8 Ersatz pill 9 "Saturday Evening Post" artist 54 Reference bk. 55 — "Wieder-sehen" 56 Inter

57 LANA HAD PITH AXES OWE TARO MICHIGAN AGES ASK RAY BROKE GIN JIM ATLAS LAZIEST DOIN BAY GAIN DODGERS DAUNT LEA HEN CAVIL MAW MEN OREO GANYMED LIEN END UNIT TAPS LOY GUTS

Solution time: 21 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

Z V T N D L Q T L Q I G Y D Y H T W C

H D R M N T V Z M N L G J D Y I E T

X M F Y M L N I H E T H M V C : L Q D

R D Z T J L H D W L I E X J T R C - I V I F C .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF CERTAIN FEMALE KIN PUT IN THEIR OPENING POKER STAKES, I MIGHT CALL THOSE AUNTIES' ANTES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Sony Nat'l Tennis Seeds go unabated

SPORTS REPORTER

All the seeded players continued their winning streak in the second round of the Sony National Tennis Tournament 2011 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. In the men's singles, Mamun Khandakar beat Hira Lal 6-3, 6-3, Delwar Hossain outplayed Abul Sayed Salmani 6-1, 6-2, Henry Prithul Mondal defeated Asmat Ullah 6-1, 6-1, Mufazzal Hossain crushed Nurul Islam 7-5, 6-4, Munir Hossain overpowered Boshir Gazi 6-1, 7-5, Anwar Hossain defeated Shohan 6-2, 6-2, Mohiuddin Sabuz crushed Sree Ashit 6-3, 6-2, Dipu Lal beat Sajib Pasy 6-2, 6-4, Rustam Ali overpowered Milon Hossain 6-1, 6-3, Ranjan Ram beat Omor Faruk 6-2, 6-4, Jamil Bhuiyan beat Mamun Bapari 6-1, 6-3 and Biplob Ram overwhelmed Salim 7-6, 6-4 to earn berths in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the women's singles, Shafina Shaha beat Jhilik Chakma 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, Eshita Afroz overpowered Moni 6-1, 6-0, Nadia Afrin Ripa crushed Nadia Islam 6-0, 6-0 and Pinki Bapari defeated Tahsin Azmi 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 to secure quarterfinal berths.

In the girls' U-16 group, Ayesha Sultan outplayed Nadia Islam 6-0, 6-0 and Shafina Shaha overpowered Promi 6-1, 6-4 to earn promotion to the next round. In the boys' group, top-seed Rustam Ali crushed Wamim 6-1, 6-1, Jamil Bhuiyan outplayed Naiful Kawsar 6-4, 6-1 and Mahin Reza Khan beat Nukul Ghosh 7-5, 6-3 for their next round berths.

"I was very happy to see Ayesha's progress, but with this punishment his career will suffer. I hope he comes back strongly," said Wasim, of the teenage left-arm paceman who has been compared to him.

Former Pakistan spinner Iqbal Qasim termed the decision as "upsetting".

"All three players were the future of Pakistan cricket, so it's a very upsetting day," said former spinner Iqbal, who is also the head of the National Bank team for which all three players featured in domestic matches.

"All three had promising careers but it's sad that they fell into a trap and couldn't recover. They could have earned more through playing international cricket," said Qasim, also a former chief selector.

Qasim said the decision must serve as reminder for other cricketers as well