

Pepsi changes Ram Prasad's game

SPORTS REPORTER

Ram Prasad Chakraborty became the lucky winner of the 'Pepsi-Change the Game' contest, a contest held Tuesday where consumers of the drink from around the country were invited to participate in different games.

Ram Prasad won himself the golden prize- match ticket for the final of the World Cup in Mumbai. 60 other participants won group match tickets, 8 of whom will have the chance to go to the field with the drinks trolley during the drinks break.

"I would like to thank Pepsi. I participated just to win match tickets since getting hold of a ticket has become so difficult. This is what game change is all about, Pepsi rocks," said an ecstatic Ram Prasad.

Former cricketer Hasibul Hossain Shanto was present at the occasion to hand over the prizes among the winners. This was the third of the four events planned by Pepsi to give away match tickets among their consumers.

United after Neuer

AFP, Berlin

Manchester United have expressed interest in signing Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer from Schalke 04, the Bundesliga club's president was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

"An international agent has approached me and informed me that Manchester United are interested in Neuer. If we get a written request from Manchester we will look at it," Clemens Tonnies told the Bild daily.

It is not the first time that Neuer, who was Germany's man between the posts in their highly successful 2010 World Cup campaign, has been touted as a possible replacement for the retiring Edwin van der Sar at Old Trafford.

Neuer, who turns 25 later this month, is under contract until June 2012. He has also been linked to a move to German giants Bayern Munich.

"Manuel Neuer is the best goalkeeper in the world for me. If he is available, you have to get him," Germany legend and ex-Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer said last week.

Bayern were due to face Neuer's club Schalke in the semifinal of German Cup on Wednesday. In the final on May 21 the winner will take on second division MSV Duisburg.

Roach here

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anyone can beat anyone. We just go out there and play cricket as we know.

"But it's a very important match. We are very confident and we have come here with our form around. We are going to give our best for the match. It's a challenge whomever we play and everyone is going to put the best effort and try to win the game on Friday," said Roach, a thought echoed by the team mentor.

"It is a very, very important game. Every game in the World Cup is important. We want to continue winning after the Netherlands game. We are taking nothing for granted. Playing in Bangladesh against Bangladesh is tough," said Richardson.

Both however were quick to dismiss the 'revenge' clause from the game despite the last meeting between the two teams going in the Tigers' favour, a 3-0 whitewash to be exact.

"Revenge? We are not thinking like that. This is the World Cup and we have to win matches to qualify for the next round," said the man famous for donning the maroon hat from 1983 to 1996.



Mallorca striker Pierre Webo (R) heads in the equalising goal against Espanyol during their Primera Liga clash at the Cornella-El Prat Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Fellini out for season

AFP, London

Everton's disappointing season suffered another blow on Wednesday after it was confirmed midfielder Marouane Fellaini would miss the rest of the campaign with an injury.

Everton boss David Moyes, speaking after his side had been dumped out of the FA Cup by Reading last Tuesday, revealed that the Belgian international had aggravated an ankle injury against Sunderland last weekend.

"Marouane is going to be out for the season now, he will have an operation on Monday," Moyes said.

It is the second time Fellaini's Everton career has been interrupted by injury. The 23-year-old was also sidelined for six months last year with an ankle problem.

Everton, who will turn their attention to the Premier League following the FA Cup, will also be without inspirational Australian midfielder Tim Cahill for "two or three weeks," Moyes said.

Enamul finds his feet again

SPORTS REPORTER



Striker Enamul Haq finally broke his eight-match goal drought in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League to help Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club edge Rahmatganj MFS 2-1 at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Since the Federation Cup final where the national striker struck a brace in Sheikh Jamal's 5-3 drubbing to champions Abahani, Enamul has struggled to find the back of opponents net. After eight match days with no success he was finally smiling in the ninth round after scoring the winner with the game locked at 1-1.

Enamul's striking partner Zahid Hasan Emily, who has also been struggling with poor form, struck his second goal in the league to put Sheikh Jamal ahead in the 17th

minute when a rebound off a Enamul effort came his way.

However, Sheikh Jamal's lead lasted only ten minutes as Rahmatganj bit back with a right-foot strike from Ugandan striker Idris Kasiry, who scored both of Rahmatganj's goals in their 2-1 win over hosts Chittagong Mohammedan in Cox's Bazar in the previous game.

After the resumption, Enamul eased the pressure and ensured Sheikh Jamal's victory converting a penalty shot in his second attempt on 53 minutes. Sheikh Jamal, who played out a goalless draw against Sheikh Russel in previous match, was awarded a spot kick as midfielder Modo Huges was brought down by a Rahmatganj defender.

The fifth triumph in nine matches took Sheikh Jamal to the joint third place with Sheikh Russel KC on 18 points each while Rahmatganj slipped to the fifth position with 16 points.

Reading KO Everton

AFP, Liverpool



Everton manager David Moyes admitted his side deserved to lose after the Toffees were sent tumbling out of the FA Cup by Championship side Reading here Tuesday.

After stunning Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the previous round, Everton had entertained hopes of a lengthy run in the FA Cup and were expected to progress safely to the quarterfinals against Reading.

But a first-half goal from Reading defender Matt Mills stunned Goodison Park into silence and ultimately sent the Royals into a last eight tie against either Manchester City or Aston Villa.

It was a bitterly disappointing exit for Everton, who left the field to a chorus of boos as Reading's players celebrated a famous win.

"It's a massive disappointment for us because we did so well in the previous round," Moyes said afterwards. "You can only ask for a home tie and we didn't take advantage of it."

Hopes pinned on conditions

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session so that the batsmen can get enough practice against the pacers.

Bangladesh bowling coach Ian Pont however was not ready to accept that they were hiring some quality pace bowlers in the nets because of the threat from the West Indies pace attack led by Roach.

"I don't think it has anything to do with the opposition but may we want to see better quality of bowling in the nets," opined Pont.

And what was also found was that the batsmen were hitting the ball as hard possible during practice and hence the question was raised whether it was an

attempt to make sure Bangladesh can capitalize on the batting Powerplay.

"No other team has really done exceptionally well in the Powerplays except for India in the first match. Our plan for the Powerplay is not to lose wickets if we take it earlier, even if that means sacrificing a few runs," informed left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak.

He also said that the team is now in good shape after the 27-run victory over Ireland in the second match at Mirpur.

"The boys are confident, we've had good practice, and some good time off the field," said Razzak adding

that he has no special plan with his bowling but just wants to bowl a tight line and length, and to bring variation in spin when needed.

Everybody was also curious about whether Bangladesh would keep their winning combination for the West Indies match and according to sources there was still no chance that the team think-tank would bring any changes into the team.

"I can't comment on team combination, that's up to the team management," said the answer from Razzak while he was asked to comment on the team combination.

Bowling

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Sachin onslaught, operated reasonably well conceding 20 runs in his first spell of 4 overs. It was the later spells that made him look flat in the end.

In the next match he opened the bowling and chipped in with a wicket in his first four overs conceding 15 runs.

Though he ended up with just the one wicket, he conceded at a meagre rate of 3.75 runs per over. The wily spinner believes that bowling well and bowling tidy are the most important thing, even if it means compromising a wicket or two.

"There are times when you bowl well without taking a wicket. Taking wicket is not the most important thing. If I can bowl well and still end up wicketless, I am prepared to take that."

But the orthodox spinner knows containing Chris Gayle and Devon Smith will not be an easy job, let alone getting them out early; not only because of the reputation of the batsmen but also due to the fact that they both are left-handers and left-handers normally find it easier dealing with left-arm spin than right-arm. Nonetheless Razzak feels he is up to the task.

"The left-handers are a little bit difficult bowling against for the left-arm spinners. But I believe if we can bowl good line and length we can be successful against any batsman. If I am given the ball first up, it would be a challenge which I am prepared to take."

Sevilla crush Gijon

AFP, Madrid



Sevilla boosted their European hopes with a comfortable 3-0 home victory over 10-man Sporting Gijon on Tuesday to move level on points with sixth-placed Athletic Bilbao.

Brazilian international forward Luis Fabiano opened the scoring from the penalty spot for his ninth league goal of the season with Diego Perotti and Alvaro Negredo also on target in a convincing home win.

It was Sevilla's fourth game in nine hectic days but the hosts were aided by the first half sending off of Gijon midfielder Sebastian Eguren.

Eguren fouled Fabiano to concede a penalty on 28 minutes and Sporting had to stomach a double punishment as the Uruguayan was given a red card.

Fabiano made no mistake thumping a low penalty into the bottom left hand corner.

Minutes later Federico Fazio hit the crossbar with a downward header before Argentine Perotti made it 2-0 with a fine first time volley.

Negredo scored a third in the second half as Sevilla climbed to seventh while Sporting hover one point above the relegation zone.

Earlier on Tuesday Real Mallorca recorded their first away win at Espanyol in over a decade with a 2-1 comeback win at the Cornella-El Prat thanks to second half goals from Pierre Webo and Emilio Nsue.

Fifth-placed Espanyol had taken an 18th minute lead through Alvaro Vazquez but Cameroon forward Webo headed an equaliser on 62 minutes and Nsue netted the winner eight minutes from time as the

islanders won at Espanyol for the first time since 2000.

"After the break our goalkeeper practically didn't touch the ball and I think it was a deserved win," said Mallorca coach Michael Laudrup.

It was a major setback for Espanyol's European hopes and Athletic Bilbao, two points behind in sixth, can move above them with a win at Real Zaragoza on Wednesday.

For Mallorca it was only their third away win of the season as they move four points off the top six.

With just seven minutes gone Mallorca won a penalty with centre-back Jordi Amat clipping Webo in the box.

Chori Castro stepped up but goalkeeper Carlos Kameni guessed the right way and got down low to palm away the spot-kick.

A minute later Espanyol went down the other end and Jose Callejon crashed a shot against the post.

The hosts got the breakthrough on 18 minutes with Mallorca getting their offside trap horribly wrong as Vazquez bent his run before keeping a cool head to slot home.

Mallorca thought they had equalised on the half hour mark but Webo's header was harshly ruled out for offside.

Livewire Webo got the goal his performance deserved with a header to level the scores just after the hour mark.

Winger Nsue then popped up with a late 82nd minute winner as Mallorca took the spoils.

Malaga, second from bottom of the table, are coached by former Real boss Manuel Pellegrini who managed the club last season but a club record 96 points saw them finish runners-up to Barcelona and the Chilean was axed.

RESULTS
Espanyol 1 (Vazquez 18) Real Mallorca 2 (Webo 62, Nsue 82)
Sevilla 3 (Fabiano 28-pen, Perotti 35, Negredo 65) Sporting Gijon 0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Singer's recording
6 Taxi
9 Morning moisture
12 Accustom
13 Spoon-bender
14 Drop the ball
15 Choral composition
16 Fugitive
18 Guru's hangout
20 Appointment
21 Solemn promise
23 Corn spike
24 One of 12 in a box
25 Cover in paper
27 Kath-mandu's land
29 Fashioned
31 Sly
35 So far
37 Thick
38 Perch

DOWN
1 Energy
2 Lennon's lady
3 Having a split coattail
4 Belligerent deity
5 River of forgetfulness
6 Arrow poison
7 Calla lily
8 Crib
9 Big name in Scotch whiskey
10 Poets' Muse
11 More ironic
17 Grown-ups
19 Jackson or Johnson
21 Beetles, e.g.
22 Scrap
24 Discord
26 Kind of TV
28 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author
30 Superlative ending
32 Untrainable, as hair
33 Eg. plus Syr., once
34 Groups of ozs.
36 Comic Booster
38 Construct
39 Last letter
40 X-rated utterances
42 Tower of confusion
45 One of Karpov's soldiers
46 Part of MSG
48 Court
50 Schedule abbr.
51 N.J. neighbor

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	O	U	R	D	A	M	E	V	E	S
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E	D	D	A	E	K	E				

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55				56				57			

CRYPTOQUIP

B S W H P U K V G S G I U W H V Y A Z S
D L I P B S Q V I F N V Y P F U W
I S L P Z F K V Y U N F W Y V G L M B U N :
M S B U Q U F W V A P S W - D S Z W .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR SINGING AN ARIA, I GUESS IT'S AN OPERA-TUNE MOMENT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P