

Big win for Brothers

Farashganj, Rahmatganj draw

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union spurned a host of opportunities before grinding out a 3-0 win over Chittagong Mohammedan while Farashganj Sporting Club came out with a 2-2 draw against their old town neighbours Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the Independence Cup football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Under the floodlights, Brothers indeed dominated Mohammedan yet found it hard to find the back of the net. Twice in the first-half, they found the back of the net, yet on both occasions those were ruled out for foul. Chittagong keeper Abu Taleb had a brilliant day in office as he made four superlative saves to keep their opponents away from taking the lead.

It all started with Liton Barman missing from close range in the ninth minute of the match before Didarul Alam's effort was ruled out on account of foul.

A superb 30-yard shot from Brothers

skipper Yousuf Ali Khan was punched over by Taleb before the keeper thwarted a Tamoy Hossain header from point-blank range on the 39th minute to keep the scoreline nil all at half-time.

The best chance of the match fell to Didarul Alam in the 63rd minute, but he somehow managed to miss the target having gone past the keeper with the goal at his mercy.

But just when it looked like the match was heading for a goalless draw with only 12 minutes remaining, Brazilian forward Everton Santos conjured up a mazy run through the Mohammedan defence only to be brought down inside the box. The diminutive forward stepped up and duly dispatched it on the back of the net.

Mohammedan were reduced to ten men for a second bookable offence by Biplob Das and they were made to pay as Faisal Mahmood scored a second for his side two minutes before time and then Everton scored the third in stoppage time to put the icing on the cake.

In the day's first match, Shyamol Ahmed Roni gave Farashganj an early lead when he netted from outside of the

box with a grounder giving Rahmatganj keeper little chance to react.

Rahmatganj though hit back six minutes later from a well-planned attack. Jamal Hossain's curling cross was headed in superbly by Nigerian forward Onewkore Uche Felix for the equaliser.

Five minutes later Rahmatganj's defender Ddumba Michael made a brilliant goal-line save to deny Congolese forward Siyo Zunapio from giving Farashganj the lead again.

Michael then turned the hero in the 42nd minute when he finished a superb solo effort by sending a thunderous shot past the goalie into the back of the Farashganj net.

Zunapio, the Congolese recruit of Farashganj, restored parity in the 66th minute poking in a half-cleared corner from inside the box.

Farashganj substitute Sohel Rana wasted two wonderful opportunities at the fag end while the last kick of the match saw Rahmatganj midfielder Idris Kasirye brush the upper side of the net as the match between the two Ganjies finished all square.



An aerial tussle for possession between Rahmatganj's Congolese defender Ddumba Michael (No 18) and his compatriot Siyo Zunapio, forward of Farashganj, during their Independence Cup encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rajasthan's 2nd in a row

AFP, Jaipur

DLFLA
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Shane Warne's Rajasthan Royals thrashed Delhi Daredevils by six wickets to pocket their second successive victory in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday.

Chasing a stiff 152, Rajasthan rode on fine knocks by Rahul Dravid and Johan Botha to overhaul the target with nine balls to spare at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

The usually sedate Dravid struck a quickfire 38 off 31 balls and South African Botha continued his fine form with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 39 with four fours.

Ross Taylor (18 not out) capped off a fine victory for Rajasthan with a four and a six in the penultimate over to delight a sizeable home crowd.

Delhi slumped to their second defeat in as many matches after having lost to Mumbai Indians in their opening match.

Delhi were in early trouble after skipper Virender Sehwag won the toss and elected to

bat but opener David Warner and Venugopal Rao posted responsible half-centuries to pull their side from the pits.

Sehwag was dismissed off the third ball of the first over when he edged Aussie quick Shoaib Tait to Dravid in the slips.

Tait returned to send back Aaron Finch (11) in his second spell before Warner dismissed Unmukt Chand and Naman Ojha in the same over to reduce Delhi to a shambolic 36-4.

Warner fought back with a 44-ball 54 and Rao top-scored with a superb 60 off 40 balls, containing four fours and four sixes to take Delhi to a competitive total.

Australian spin legend Warne impressed the most among the bowlers, finishing with 2-17 but Tait proved expensive with his two wickets coming at the cost of 40 runs off four overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 151-6 in 20 overs (Rao 60, Warner 54; Warne 2-17, Tait 2-40)

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 152-4 in 18.3 overs (Botha 39 not out, Dravid 38)

Result: Rajasthan Royals won by six wickets.

Lanka's WC shortfall

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket said Monday it is saddled with a 23-million-dollar debt after cost overruns and hefty bills incurred building stadiums for the recent World Cup.

"We spent a lot of money to host the World Cup, to build two stadiums and rebuild one stadium. The World Cup left us a 2.5 billion rupee (22.6 million dollars) deficit," Sports Minister Mahinda Aluthgama told reporters.

Sri Lanka, which lost the final to India by six wickets, hosted 12 matches during the World Cup, with others held in India and Bangladesh.

The island built two new grounds in the southern town of Hambantota and the central town of Pallekele, while nearly 8 million dollars was spent to renovate the Colombo-based R Premadasa Stadium.

Pride at stake

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh victory becomes an exercise in fantasy.

But Australia batsman Callum Ferguson said that they were not taking the home team lightly.

"They are an extremely talented side and you know with a player of Tamim's talent at the top of the order, if he can get a good start as we saw yesterday with the middle order, the Bangladesh side really does have the talent to push on the big score," said Ferguson and stressed the importance of always being at the top of their games in order to win. "We need to be at our best in the field with the ball to make sure we give our self every opportunity. We know at international level you have to be at your absolute best for the entire game to make sure that you are on the winning side."

Although performing much better, Australia are also in a state of flux with a new leadership group in captain Michael Clarke and vice-captain Watson, following Ricky Ponting's decision to step down from the captaincy in the aftermath of the World Cup. As it is their last match of the season and with the series won, Australia can afford to experiment with their line-up. It is expected that seamer James Pattinson will get a look in and make his debut, but above all the Aussies will focus on keeping the momentum going and to ensure that the first assignment under the new leadership will be completed without any hiccups.

"They (the new leadership group) are very strong at the minute. Obviously Michael (Clarke) and Shane (Watson) have led from the front in both games and they really have worked well together in the field and obviously, laying out the plans along with the coach and things have gone well so far. We are hoping that it's going to be an extremely successful leadership group. It started on the right foot," said the young Aussie batsman.

IAAF's landmark ruling on gender issue

Athletics

AFP, Paris

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) on Tuesday announced the introduction of new eligibility rules for female athletes triggered by the controversy surrounding South Africa's 800-metre runner Caster Semenya.

Athletics' governing body, in a landmark ruling, became the first sports federation to adopt a policy governing women athletes with excessive male hormones, a medical condition known as hyperandrogenism.

An IAAF statement announced: "A female with hyperandrogenism who is recognised as a female in law shall be eligible to compete in women's competition in athletics provided that she has androgen levels below the male range [measured by reference to testosterone levels in serum]."

The IAAF decided to act after the case involving Semenya.

The South African teenager was revealed to be a hermaphrodite after the leaking of test results following her 800m win at the World Championships in Berlin in August 2009.

The incident generated anger from the South African public and government, who rallied behind the athlete, and sparked a major gender review by the IAAF.

Semenya was cleared to compete as a woman in July, 2010, nearly a year after she shot to prominence.

The new rules are the result of an 18-month review by an IAAF working group and the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission.

An independent expert medical panel has been established to make recommendations to the IAAF in any future cases that should arise to determine the eligibility of female athletes with hyperandrogenism.

The new rules come into force on May 1.

The IAAF added that it had also looked into the eligibility of athletes who had "undergone male to female sex reassignment" and would publish its findings next month.

Siddons, Tigers

FROM PAGE 16

Siddons had taken over charge of the Tigers in December 2007.

Yunus also informed that they will appoint a new bowling and fielding coach.

The contract of bowling coach Ian Pont has expired and fielding coach Julien Fountain's tenure will end this (April) month. We will also advertise for these specialist positions as early as possible," he said.

The board however has retained the services of strength and conditioning coach Grant Trafford Luder until March 2012 while physio Michael Henry's contract, which is due to expire on 30 April, will be reviewed over the coming weeks.

The board however didn't discuss about the fate of the current selection committee headed by Rafiqul Alam.

"We didn't discuss this issue in the meeting but the board will discuss the future of the national selection committee soon," said Yunus.

The tenure of the three-member selection committee also ends this month and according to sources there is hardly any chance for Rafiqul Alam to continue the job.

Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 16

BRIEF SCORES

RAJSHAHI: 324 all out and 261-8 dec in 73 overs (Jahurul 77, Shahjada 62, Farhad 59; Tariqul 3-37, Sohag 3-71).

BARISAL: 184 all out and 64-3 in 19 overs (Faruque 23; Forhad 1-0).

SYLHET: 320 all out and 127-5 in 59 overs (Mabud 51 not out; Robin 2-23).

DHAKA: 170 all out in 69.1 overs (Elias 48, Uttam 45; Nasum 5-48, Nabil 2-21).

Javed rejects PCB offer

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan confirmed Tuesday that former captain Javed Miandad had turned down an offer to become the side's batting coach for personal reasons.

The team has been let down by faltering fielding and under-achieving batsmen and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt and one-day captain Shahid Afridi had asked Miandad to come on board, manager Intikhab Alam said.

"The Pakistan team surely needs a batting coach and the board approached Miandad but he unfortunately declined the offer because of personal reasons. But I am sure that he will come and help the players in the near future," Alam told reporters during team's training

camp for the West Indies tour.

Pakistan fly out to the Caribbean early Thursday to play one Twenty20 international, five one-day matches and two Tests.

Miandad's Test batting average never dropped below 50 throughout his 20-year career. His 8,832 Test runs at 52.57 remains a record today, with espncricinfo.com describing him as "the greatest batsman Pakistan has ever produced".

The right-hander, now a PCB director, had initially hinted that he was willing to help out the squad but also said he was unwilling to tour.

Alam said he was nevertheless happy with the team's preparations for the West Indies.

"I can say this with great satisfaction that this team maintained exemplary discipline during the World Cup and I am also happy with the fitness level of the team because, unlike the other teams, we didn't have any serious injury problems during the mega event," said Alam.

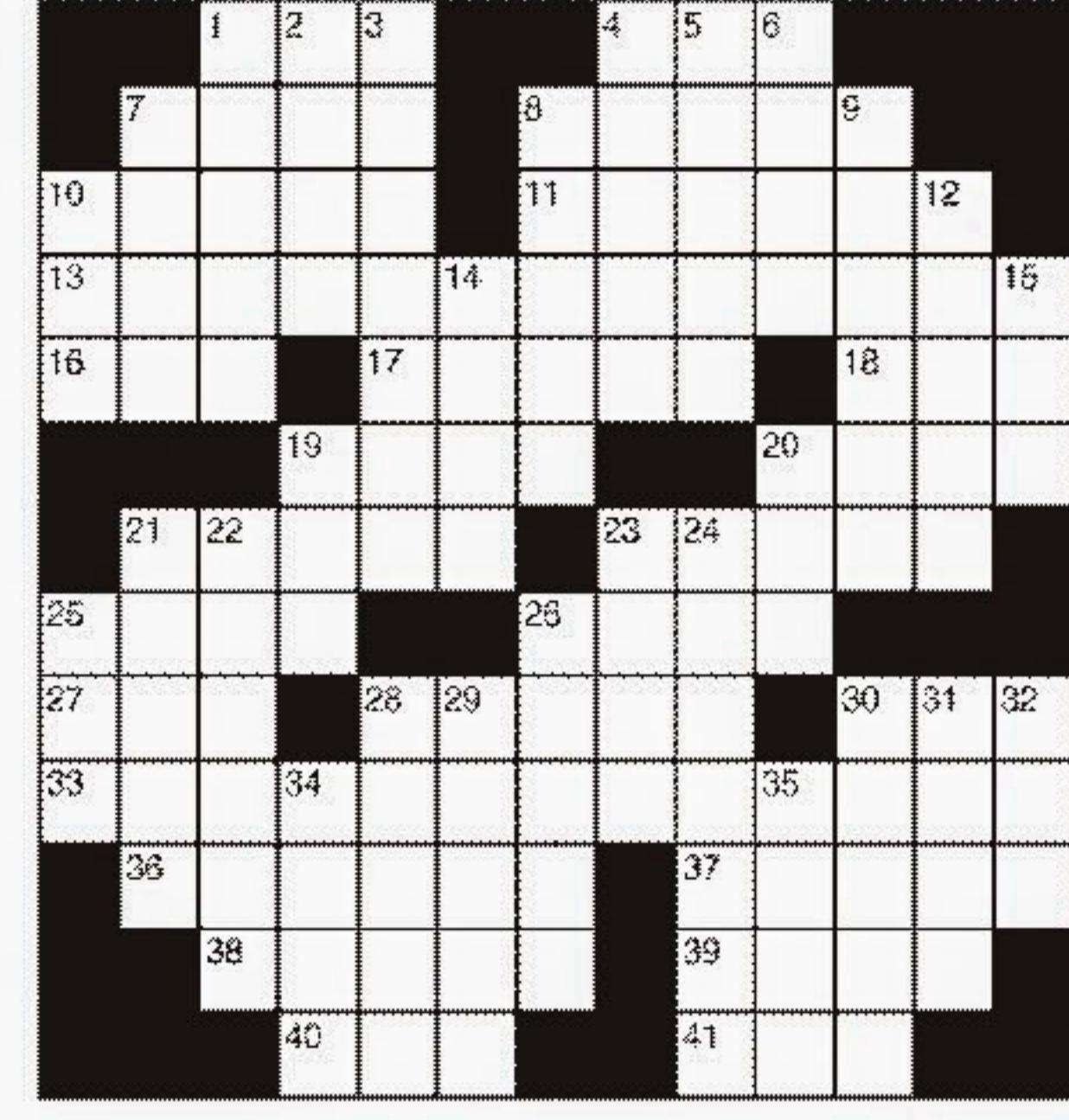
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Buddy 27 Music 2 "The Thin 15 "Help!" 19 Existed 20 The whole enchilada 21 Left one's seat 22 Apple variety 23 Kitten's sound 24 Neat 25 Chances, for short 26 Non-native, to Hawaiians 28 "The Garden of Earthly Delights" artist 29 Abrasive powder 30 Exists 31 Burden 32 Big hatchet 33 Warmth 34 Scoff

DOWN 1 Parade 14 Pig's remark 19 Make one's way 20 Tosses in 21 Ignite 23 Casual shirts 25 Singer Redding 26 Throw forcefully 27 "The Rich All Teen 30 Your 31 Cent. fractions 32 Game with "Skip" cards 33 Miss 34 Boxseat 35 Star Gem Test

Solution time: 21 mins.

EPIC DCX ALGA RICH ALI TEEN STOAH FISH TANK TANKTOP EARTH ROE PAC ESSAY TOP KICK ERE SUP DOE KICKBOX MISTY ILL TAN SEATBELT URGE KALE RUE LIEN STAR GEM TEST



CRYPTOQUIP

B Z G N L H Z B L F A , H Z G L K P

H N G Z F N E L A N B R L H Q Z E R L L B P

R T Z R ' P G K Q T P G Z F F N E

R T Z B B L E G Z F G D B D G L K P N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT SOMEBODY CALL A TRIANGLE WHOSE CORNERS ARE ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE? A-CUTE ONE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

AFP, Kolkata

DLFLA
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Jacques Kallis hit his second half-century in a row to set up a nine-run win for Kolkata Knight Riders against Deccan Chargers in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

Kallis, 35, hit seven fours and a six in his 45-ball 53 as Kolkata piled on 163-4 before restricting Deccan to 154-8 off 20 overs on a slow Eden Gardens track.

This was the first victory for Kolkata in the Twenty20 tournament after having lost to Chennai by two runs in their opening match last week.

Kallis also picked up four catches to cap a fine day in the middle.

Left-arm spinner Iqbal Abdullah gave Kolkata an early breakthrough, removing Ishank Jaggi in the third over before Rajat Bhatia grabbed the key wicket of skipper Kumar Sangakkara (1