

**Siddikur
at 15th**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh golf sensation Siddikur Rahman finished the weather-curtailed first round of the ICTSI Philippine Open in joint 15th place, shooting a round of one-under-par 71 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Manila yesterday.

The day, however, belonged to two other young guns -- Himmat Rai of India and Thanyakon Khrongpha from Thailand -- who shot identical rounds of four-under-par 68 to share the lead in the 300,000-dollar Asian Tour event.

Siddikur shared the 15th spot with fifteen other players. On a course that even the leaders thought were difficult, requiring precision play to keep the ball on the fairway, Siddikur made three birdies on the tenth, seventeenth and second holes, and would have finished higher if not for two bogies on holes fourteen and eighteen.

Play was suspended at 2.30pm due to lightning for one hour and 25 minutes which led to the suspension of the first round for some players. The first round will be completed today when play starts at 6.45 am.

Veteran Wang Ter-chang of Chinese Taipei, who at the age of 49 is more than 20 years the senior of the clubhouse leaders, was tied in third with an in-form Berry Henson of the United States and Peter Karmis of South Africa.

No day-night

FROM PAGE 16

Dhabi. You also need to play it at a venue, and time of year, where dew isn't going to come in. You can have the best ball in the world but it would be unfair in those conditions."

With audiences for Test cricket declining in recent years outside of traditional heartlands such as England, floodlit matches have been suggested as a way of bolstering crowds for the five-day game.

India still

FROM PAGE 16

lbw decision during their World Cup match with England, when Ian Bell was given not out even though replays suggested otherwise.

"The inadequacy of the UDRS has been exposed in this edition of the World Cup," an angry BCCI said in a letter to the ICC following the Bell incident.

The group stage match between India and England was a case in point which clearly brought out the inadequacy of the system."

But Dave Richardson, the ICC's general manager for cricket, was confident of changing Indian views.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni sets up for a whack during his knock of 63 not out against Delhi Daredevils at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

DD shown the door

AFP, Chennai



Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni hammered an unbeaten 63 as Chennai Super Kings defeated Delhi Daredevils by 18 runs on Thursday to virtually book a play-off berth in the Indian Premier League.

Dhoni hit five fours and four sixes in his 31-ball knock and shared 96 runs with Subramanian Badrinath (55) to lift Chennai from a shaky 68-3 to 176-4 after electing to bat at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Delhi, who have been set back by the absence of injured captain Virender Sehwag, were never really in the hunt, folding up for 158-6 in 20 overs with Ravichandran Ashwin and Dwayne Bravo grabbing two wickets apiece.

The comfortable win propelled Chennai to the top of the points table while Delhi bowed out of contention for a place in the qualifying rounds after going down to their eighth defeat from 12 games.

Chennai, the defending champions, lost opener Michael Hussey (five) in the first over when he was trapped leg before by left-arm

paceman Irfan Pathan.

Suresh Raina (14) and Murali Vijay (35) were also dismissed in quick succession, leaving the hosts in trouble by the 11th over but Dhoni and Badrinath revived the innings by their blazing knocks.

Dhoni carted the last two balls of the innings for sixes, as Chennai scored 37 in the final two overs to cap a miserable outing for Delhi.

Badrinath, enjoying a purple patch with the bat, also punished the erratic Delhi bowlers during his 43-ball innings, hitting six boundaries and a six.

Paceman Ajit Agarkar was the most expensive bowler, leaking 49 runs from four overs while Pathan gave away 40. The only decent bowling performance came from Varun Aaron who returned figures of 1-20.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 176 for 4 in 20 overs (Dhoni 63 not out, Badrinath 55, Vijay 35)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 158 for 6 in 20 overs (Pathan 44 not out, Rao 30, Ojha 25; Aswin 2-19, Bravo 2-21)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 18 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Nadal in Rome qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Rafael Nadal quickly put behind him what he described as his worst clay performance in memory to streak into the Rome Masters quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Feliciano Lopez on Thursday.

Just 24 hours earlier, the world number one cut a frustrated figure following his troubled three-set victory over Italian qualifier Paolo Lorenzi in the second round.

He told reporters after the game that he had played badly and couldn't remember a worse performance on his favourite surface.

Some suggested he might have been adversely affected by his loss to recent nemesis Novak Djokovic in the Madrid final on Sunday -- his first clay defeat in 10 outings against the world No. 2.

But Nadal insisted he was feeling no pressure and that he would improve -- he claimed it wouldn't be possible to play so badly again.

And he was proved right as he was more like his old self in notching his fourth straight sets victory against his countryman on this surface.

He began with an early break in the second game as Lopez went long on a sliced backhand.

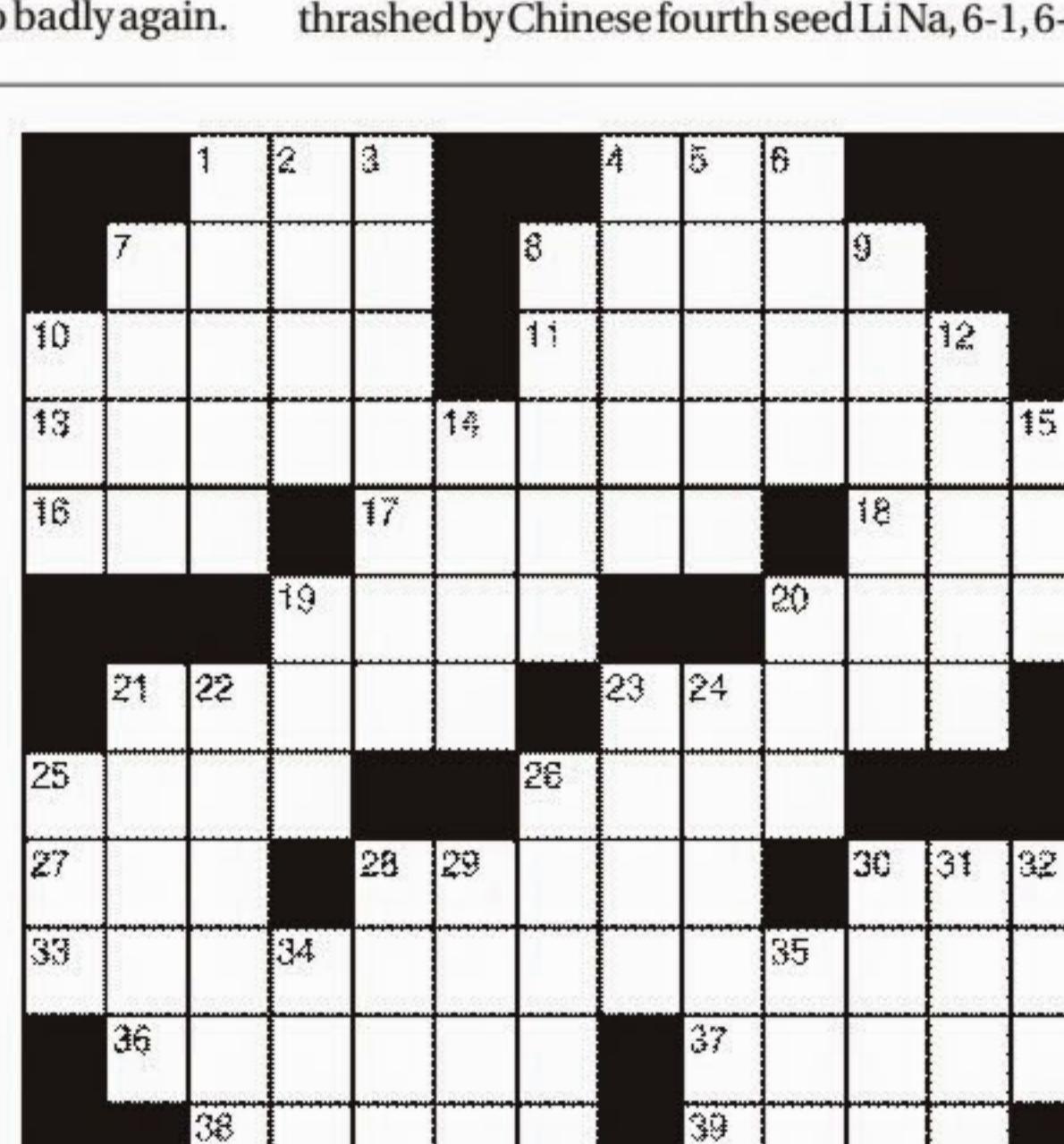
But just as he had failed to hold a break in the first set against Lorenzi, Nadal suffered a break back against his compatriot.

And it was a similar failing to the day before, when his forehand was out of sorts that cost him as he plonked one into the net on break point in the seventh game.

However, Lopez played a sloppy game when serving to stay in the set at 4-5, a poor drop shot into the net bringing up 0-40 and three set points to Nadal, who took the first with a rasping backhand passing shot.

Sixth seed Samantha Stosur eased into the quarterfinals as she put an end to Slovenian qualifier Polona Hercog's impressive run, winning 6-3, 6-4.

However, Jarmila Gajdosova was soundly thrashed by Chinese fourth seed Li Na, 6-1, 6-2.



CRYPTOQUIP

TAPO ZUJRY UOE JESWP

DEKGZGK KAGOPYP GYIEOF

WPH FSNOR FU QUN

YNDDUYP HAPQ HEGTEO UO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THAT MAN IS EXTREMELY TICKED OFF AND THERE ARE ANY CANDLES CLOSE TO HIM, HE WHACKS THE WAX.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

Lorgat's 'sting' idea

Cricket

AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat has considered the use of 'sting' operations to trap players prepared to fix matches.

The South African administrator said the use of a "mystery shopper" could help weed out possible fixers as the global governing body tries to eradicate corruption from top-flight international cricket.

"I thought when this issue came up last year that perhaps we could have a 'mystery shopper,'" Lorgat told the BBC's Hardtalk programme.

"In other words, some people posing as bookmakers approach players and see if those players report along with our codes of conduct."

However, Lorgat admitted the proposal had met with strong resistance.

"We would have to get the players' federations consenting to it and they of course opposed it and were not happy, they considered it a form of entrapment," he said.

Another plan would give the ICC access to players' bank accounts and assets so that they could be monitored, but Lorgat conceded that had less chance of being enacted

than his 'sting' scheme.

"It is a bit more complex than that, there are human rights issues and legalities to understand properly," he said.

Three members of the Pakistan team -- former Test captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer -- were all banned by the ICC for a minimum of five years each for their involvement in a spot-fixing scandal during last year's tour of England.

The trio now face criminal prosecution in England.

But the scandal, which involved the bowling of deliberate no-balls during the Lord's Test, only came to light as a result of a 'sting' operation carried out by Britain's News of the World tabloid.

Many pundits said the fact it took a newspaper, rather than the ICC's own anti-corruption and security unit, to expose the affair was an embarrassment for the global governing body.

That was a point the ICC denied at the time but Lorgat told the BBC: "We are doing a review of our whole process and all of our systems right now.

"We have engaged an independent firm to conduct that review and I'm hopeful that some constructive recommendations will come up that will enhance or improve the way we are currently tackling the issue."

Rajshahi edge ahead

FROM PAGE 16

playing in his third game.

"It's really a sporting wicket. Patience was the key in my batting. I focused on the basics and didn't take any risk and you know it is Pilot Bhai's (Khaled Mashud) last game and that's why I tried my best to give my team an advantage," he added.

The national all-rounder was confident that he can play more long innings if he gets the opportunity to bat at the top of the order.

Another successful Rajshahi batsman Mashud could add only nine runs to



Winners of the Aristo Pharma Rabe-20 World Cup Cricket quiz raffle draw pose with former national captain and current selector Habibul Bashar (5th from R) and well-known commentator Shamim Ashraf Chowdhury (4th from R) at the company's headquarters yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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