



PHOTO: STAR
Sheikh Russel KC striker Effiong Duke (L) fights off pressure from a Brothers Union defender during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Cameroonian striker netted a 25-yarder in Sk Russel's 4-0 victory.

Muktis march on

SPORTS REPORTER

The Muktijoddha Sangsad juggernaut continued unabated as they defeated hosts Feni Soccer Club 2-0 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League encounter at Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

The win takes the Reds to 38 points from 15 matches and opens up a three-point gap with the second-placed and defending champions Abahani.

The match also saw Sudanese striker James Moga taking a solo lead at the top of scorer's chart with 14 goals, one more than teammate Mithun Chowdhury and Twum Frank of Abahani.

Moga opened the scoring from a penalty in the 18th minute after Feni's Cameroonian defender Jean Eric Batamack handled the ball in the for-

bidden zone, leaving the referee to point to the dreaded spot. The Cameroonian also got marching orders for his offence.

Muktijoddha used their man-advantage to good effect and scored a second in the 73rd minute through Russian striker Boris Kochikin, who did a simple task of stabbing in an inviting cross from Arman Aziz from close.

In the other match of the day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Sheikh Russel Kira Chakra thrashed Brothers Union 4-0.

Sheikh Russel took the lead in the 33rd minute thanks to a gaffe from Brothers custodian Uttam Barua, who got hold of a Mezbabul Haque long-range shot but eventually let it slip from his grips and watched the ball harmlessly roll into the net.

Three minutes earlier the goalkeeper's blushes were saved when defender Nahidul Islam cleared an

Effiong Duke shot from the goal line.

The lead was extended 11 minutes into the second half when Duke, the Cameroonian striker, beat the outstretched hands of the keeper with a 25-yarder.

Thirteen minutes later Duke turned provider as he danced down the right flank to deliver a cross for Monaem Khan who placed the ball at the far post giving no chance to the keeper to react.

Russel came close to scoring a fourth in the 77th minute, but Mezbabul Haque's brilliant free kick rattled off the crossbar.

However, they did find a fourth in the stoppage time when Wahed Ahmed collected the ball at the edge of the box and chipped it over the keeper and into the net to provide the icing on the cake.

Sheikh Russel's win takes them to fourth position with 26 points from 14 matches while Brothers are in sixth with 19 points.

Siddikur falls hard

SPORTS REPORTER

After a promising finish to round 2 of the ICTSI Philippine Open on Friday when he held joint sixth spot, it all unravelled for Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman as he shot an atrocious six-over-par 78 to slide to joint 38th at the end of round 3 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Manila yesterday.

Of the eighteen holes that Siddikur played yesterday, he made no birdies, four bogeys, and a damaging double bogey in the 11th hole. His bad day means that his cumulative score reads 5-over-par 221 and he now trails leader Berry Henson of USA by 11 strokes.

Henson, an Asian Tour rookie, posted a one-under-par 71 in tough scoring conditions where only nine players broke par. Jbe Kruger of South Africa, who finished second on three occasions last year, and local hope Jay Bayron were two strokes behind after shooting 73 and 74 respectively for a 212 total in the US\$300,000 event.

Thai trio Pariya Junhasavasdikul, Chapchai Nirat and Prom Meesawat shared fourth place with Filipino Mars Pucay and 49-year-old Wang Ter-chang of Chinese Taipei on matching 214s.

Deccan stun Mumbai

Gale flays Knight Riders

AFP, Mumbai



Little-known Anand Rajan grabbed two key wickets to help bottom-placed Deccan Chargers shock third-placed Mumbai Indians by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match on Saturday.

The seamer removed skipper Sachin Tendulkar and hard-hitting Kieron Pollard as Mumbai finished at 125-8 chasing a modest 136-run target to suffer their fourth defeat in 12 games of the Twenty20 tournament.

In another match, West Indies opener Chris Gayle smashed a 12-ball 38 as Royal Challengers Bangalore posted a four-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders.

Bangalore made sure of a place in the semi-finals with 17 points. They are followed by Chennai (16), Mumbai (16), Kolkata (14), Rajasthan (11), Punjab (10), Kochi (10), Pune (eight), Deccan (eight) and Delhi (eight).

Mumbai needed 26 to win in the last over but managed only 15 as Anand dismissed West Indies all-rounder Pollard (24 off 13 balls) with his fourth delivery.

Tendulkar's Mumbai

were under pressure after being reduced to 25-3 in the opening 5.3 overs, with paceman Ishant Sharma taking two wickets.

Rajan, playing his first IPL match, then got two wickets in one over, including that of Tendulkar who top-scored with 37.

Mumbai paceman Dhawal Kulkarni grabbed three wickets to restrict Deccan, with Shikhar Dhawan (27 not out), skipper Kumar Sangakkara (27) and Sunny Sohal being the main scorers.

Mumbai seamer Munaf Patel, who conceded 23 runs in the last over, and Deccan batsman Amit Mishra exchanged words. Mishra hit the bowler for four successive boundaries in the over.

Gayle earlier hit two sixes and six fours as Bangalore achieved a rain-revised target of 102 with three balls to spare in a 13-overs-a-side game.

He started aggressively, hitting Australian paceman Brett Lee for four boundaries in the opening over and then cracking two successive sixes in the next over bowled by seamer Jaidev Unadkat.

He fell in the third over attempting a big shot, caught by Jacques Kallis off

Lee. Kallis took two wickets for 16 runs in three overs.

Yusuf Pathan top-scored for Kolkata with 36, adding 53 for the fourth wicket with Manoj Tiwary (19 not out). He hit three sixes and two fours in his 24-ball knock.

BRIEF SCORES:
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 89-4 in 13 overs (Pathan 36; Langeveldt 2-10)
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 105-6 in 12.3 overs (Gayle 38; Kallis 2-16)
Result: Royal Challengers won by four wickets (D/L method).
DECCAN CHARGERS: 135-6 in 20 overs (Dhawan 27 not out, Sangakkara 27, Sohal 20; Kulkarni 3-26)
MUMBAI INDIANS: 125-8 in 20 overs (Tendulkar 37, Pollard 24; Rajan 3-27, Sharma 2-30)
Result: Deccan Chargers won by 10 runs.

Venus follows her sister!

AFP, Paris

Venus Williams has joined her younger sister, Serena, in withdrawing from the French Open due to injury, her agent confirmed on Saturday.

The 30-year-old seven-time Grand Slam champion has not played since January, when she pulled out of the Australian Open in the third round with an abdominal injury.

A knee problem meant Venus played just one tournament in the last half of 2010 but she still finished the year inside the top five in the world rankings.

Now number 19 in the world, Venus has not won a Grand Slam singles title since 2008, when she won Wimbledon for the fifth time.

Serena withdrew from Roland Garros on Thursday, having been out of action since last summer due to two foot operations and the discovery of blood clots in her lung.

Queen again



Chess

ATIQUE ANAM

Of all sports, chess is the game that is played most in the mind, and a 67-year-old Rani Hamid proved that as long as the mind is strong and sound, age is irrelevant.

Bangladesh's first International Women's Master won a record 18th national title by defeating Dilara Jahan Nupur in the eleventh and final round of the Arlin Developer 32nd National Women's Chess Championship at the Chess Federation yesterday.

Rani said she has got everything from this game but still enjoys the challenge: "I am not too excited with the title. I enjoy playing chess as I have always done. I don't set any specific targets now, since I have achieved all that I have wanted from



RANI HAMID

the game. But I will keep playing as long as I can."

Rani, who won the first six consecutive national titles since its inception in 1979, collected 9.5 points from eleven rounds while Nazrana Khan Eva finished runner-up with 9 points after she beat IWM Shamima Akter Liza, who had also collected 9 points, in a tie-breaker. Sharmin Sultana became fourth with

eight points while Mahmuda Haque Mili was placed fifth with 6.5 points.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chess Federation's general secretary Mokaddes Hossain informed that they would request the authorities at the Guinness Book of World Records to enlist Rani as winner of the highest number of women's national titles, even though they are not yet certain whether there is anyone else who has won more titles at the national stage.

Rani started this year's campaign on the wrong foot, losing to former champion Zakia Sultana in the first round. Since then she had been steady, winning four rounds in a row before drawing the sixth round with Eva.

However, she beat defending champion Liza to keep in sight of the leaders. Liza's unexpected defeat to

Sharmin Sultana in the tenth round paved the way for Rani to go on top and reclaim the title after two barren years.

She said age was catching up with her performance, which was the reason she attributed for her first round loss. She also felt this year's competition was the most competitive in years. It must be mentioned that the closest challenger to Rani's seemingly unbreakable record of 18 titles is Syeda Shabana Parvin with only five titles to her name.

Defending champion Liza said she did not find her rhythm during the whole competition and her performance kept fluctuating throughout. She also said she had to come from Narayanganj each day to play the games which might have had an adverse impact on her performance.

Ajmal pegs back WI



Cricket

AFP, Georgetown

Saeed Ajmal continued to torment the West Indies as he bowled Pakistan back into the opening Test on Saturday when the hosts were reduced to 140 for nine in their second innings for an overall lead of 209.

The off-spinner has collected five for 41 from 23 overs for match figures of 10 for 100 to leave the West Indies tottering on the third day at the Guyana National Stadium, with Shivnarine Chanderpaul not out on 31 and Devendra Bishoo on 24.

Ajmal struck with the fifth ball of the day, after West Indies continued from their overnight total of 34 for two.

He removed night-watchman Kemar Roach lbw for three, following the West Indies fast bowler's unsuccessful review of New Zealand umpire Tony Hill's decision.

It was the 13th lbw decision awarded in the match.

Ajmal continued to mesmerise the West Indies batsmen, many of whom have failed to pick his doosra, removing Ramnaresh Sarwan for 11 and Carlton Baugh for seven.

Ajmal was unfortunate that he did not count Lendl Simmons among his scalps, when the West Indies opener, on 20, charged

down the pitch, and slogged at a flighted delivery.

The ball ricocheted from the batsman's front pad, eluded wicketkeeper Mohammad Salman, and raced to the third man boundary for four leg byes.

Next over, Wahab Riaz made sure the lost chance was not too costly for Pakistan when Simmons fended a short delivery and was caught at silly mid-off for 21, leaving West Indies 47 for four.

With Ajmal tying the batsmen down, and Wahab and Umar Gul bowling steadily from the other end, there were few scoring opportunities for West Indies, but Sarwan eased the tension with a typically smooth cover drive off Wahab for his first boundary.

Ajmal, however, remained a constant threat and this brought Sarwan's downfall, caught at forward short leg fending an awkwardly bouncing delivery.

Pakistan were gifted another wicket when Brendan Nash was run out for three, looking for a second run, and being sent back by Chanderpaul.

Ajmal then struck in the last 15 minutes before the interval when Baugh was caught at mid-wicket, swinging a shortish delivery low to the fielder.

Pakistan, seeking their maiden Test series victory in the Caribbean, had earlier been dismissed for 160 in reply to West Indies first innings total of 226, about 40 minutes before the scheduled close with leg spinner Devendra Bishoo

finishing with four for 68 from 25 overs on his Test debut.

Seamer Ravi Rampaul took three for 27 from 17 overs for his best figures in a Test.

Abdur Rehman topped the scoring for the visitors with 40 not out while Azhar Ali made 34 and Umar Akmal hit 33.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES: First innings 226 (Simmons 49, Chanderpaul 27, Bravo 25; Ajmal 5-69, Hafeez 2-22, Rehman 2-51)
PAKISTAN: First innings 160 (Rehman 40 not out, Akmal 33; Bishoo 4-68, Rampaul 3-27, Sammy 2-16)
WEST INDIES: Second innings 146 for 9 (Simmons 21, Chanderpaul 34 not out, Bishoo 24 not out; Ajmal 5-41)

We will miss our mentor

FROM PAGE 16

"Pilot bhai taught us how one should apply techniques in the field. He was very straightforward in his opinion as he never hesitated to point out my mistakes. Without any doubt, he was a father figure for Rajshahi cricket," applauded Naeem.

Left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib, who took 29 wickets, described Pilot as an easy-going person. "We always enjoyed his company. Because of him, many of us got the chance to play at this level. He not only helped the players but also enjoyed playing with us. It's always pleasing to spend time with Pilot bhai not just on the field but off it too," said Sajib.

When his colleagues showered praises on their celebrated teammate, the man himself however pointed out two major components -- team spirit and hard work -- behind his division's success in the competition.

"I think team spirit was the key behind this success and all the players are hard working. The boys are really hungry to make their career in cricket. We worked together to take the team into such a position," said Mashud.

And what made Mashud most happy was the fact that without him his team will not be poorer as there are a number of good players in the pipeline.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Houston mate

5 Have a bug

8 Urban pall

12 Black, in poetry

13 Expert

14 Hemingway nickname

15 Join with a blowtorch

16 Ultra-modernist

17 Formerly, formerly

18 Moe, Larry or Shemp

20 Croon

22 Property

26 Get more ammo

29 Shade source

30 Trigger's rider

31 — Major (constellation)

32 Pigs' digs

33 Existed

34 That man's

DOWN

1 Information

2 Help under-handedly

3 One's performance

4 Pyrenees

5 Breathing problem

6 Anger

7 Without precision

8 Exhausted

9 "Dennis the Menace" girl

10 Chances, for short

11 "Roscoe"

19 Jewel

21 Doctrine

23 "— Eat Cake"

24 Ripped

25 Spud's buds

26 Rhine feeder

27 Huron neighbor

28 Booth,

32 Trace

33 Employed

35 "CSI" evidence

36 Commandment count

38 Daft

39 Full, as eyebrows

42 "American —"

43 Infamous fiddler

44 Moist

45 Matterhorn, for one

46 Reed or Rawls

48 Feathery neck-piece

Solution time: 25 mins.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
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45	46				47	48		49		
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53					54			55		

CRYPTOQUIP

M R Q W D R N F D Q E D Q I V
E Z I I R D X N D B N L Y D Q R N R
C L M B N C D E D I N E C Z B V
A Q B V I N Y Z F Z A Z I N A D B V R X Z B.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FOLKS ON A LARGE PACIFIC CHINESE ISLAND GET DRUNK, DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY TAIWAN ON?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O