

Star SPORT

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Perry's unique double

Ellyse Perry's stunning goal against Sweden in the Women's World Cup quarterfinal on Sunday night could not give Australia a win but it highlighted her importance to the world of sport. The 20-year-old from Sydney is a trendsetter as she stamped herself as one of the most versatile sportswomen in the world. Her appearance as an 89th-minute substitute against Norway made her the first Australian woman to have appeared in football and cricket World Cups for her country after her appearance in both the 50-over and Twenty20 events. In football, she's a defender who plays for Canberra United. Perry has so far scored two goals in her 15-game international career. —Star Sport Desk



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL Ansar & VDP retain title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar & VDP proved their dominance in women's football by winning the National Women's Championship beating Narayanganj DSA 4-0 in the final at the MA at before a capacity crowd at the Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Nubai Ching Marma put Ansar in front of the fifth minute before Amraching Marma doubled the lead five minutes later. Ansar added two more in the second half, Rupali Chakma scoring the third in the 53rd minute before Jahanara Akter finishing it off in the 62nd.

Amraching became the top scorer of the tournament with 13 goals while the best player's award went to Aklima Khatun of Jessore DSA. Kishoreganj won the fair play trophy.

The Champions Ansar got a prize money of Tk 50,000 while runners up Narayanganj bagged Tk 25,000. Local member of parliament Alhaj Shamsul Haque distributed prizes amongst the winners.



Abahani's Moinul Ibnul Seraji (L) and Brothers Union's Kingsley Chigozi in hot pursuit during their Super Cup clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sk Russel to pay FIFA fine

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday acknowledged that Sheikh Russel KC were imposed 37,567 dollars fine by FIFA after the club breached a contract with a Ghanaian-born German footballer Mohammad Abdulai two years ago.

Abdulai was sent back by Sheikh Russel after the booter played a couple of Federation Cup matches in 2009 though he was contracted for the season.

Abdulai later lodged a complaint with world football's governing body against Sheikh Russel to get back his wages in line with contract and FIFA therefore launched a probe into the matter.

"There was an option in the contract to send Abdulai back if he failed to impress us and we sent him back in line with the contract after paying him one month's salary," said Sheikh Russel president Nurul Alam Chowdhury claiming that they did not breach the contract.

Admitting to concede fine, Chowdhury said that

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Abahani, Brothers fire blanks

Sky Blues almost in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani all but confirmed their semifinal berth in the Grameenphone Super Cup despite playing out a goalless draw against Brothers Union in their Group A encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The outcome meant that Brother Union, who suffered a 6-1 defeat against Sheikh Jamal Dhanomdi Club in their opening game, are set to exit from the first round of the lucrative 1 crore Taka prize money event.

Abahani, on the other hand, are on course to fill one of the two semifinal slots from the group provided that they avoid a defeat of more than 5-0 against Sheikh Jamal, who have already made it to the last four, on Wednesday.

However, back to the day's match, there were a few thousand die-hard football fans, who turned up at the Big Bowl, brooding the searing heat that rose as high as 35 degree Celsius, anticipating a good game.

But in the end they returned home disappointed, not because both teams fired blanks but due to the quality of football the two worthy opponents presented in a match that lacked any concerted effort, marked by listless running and poor finishing.

The game was so boring that the jury had to wrestle very hard to pick up the right player for the man-of-the-match award. And when they eventually announced Abahani's shaven-headed defender Mamun Mia for the award after the goalless encounter, it hardly satisfied those who endured a 90-minute torture.

Mamun did play his part in the defence, but it was Brothers goalkeeper Sabuj Das Roghu who deserved the award for keeping Abahani at bay with some fine saves.

If Roghu was arguably the best player on the pitch then the award for villain should have gone to Abahani's misfiring midfielder Mehdi Hasan Ujjal. He got the best chance in the 25th minute when a powerful Awudu Ibrahim grounder rebounded off Roghu's chest and landed on his feet. But with all the time in the world and the goalkeeper still lying on the ground, Ujjal somehow managed to shoot

the ball wide from six yards.

The Sky Blues, who beat the Oranges on all three previous occasions this season, failed to find the net despite creating a few more chances after the break.

Abahani coach Amalesh Sen made some changes in the second half in search of a goal but it was not quite understandable from him for not trying a proven striker like Alfaz Ahmed, who was sitting on the bench.

"We have problems in the attacking line-up from the beginning of the season. But even then, the forwards should have availed the opportunities that came their way in both halves of the game, but they failed," said coach Amalesh, who guided the team after Iranian coach Ali Akbar left here in the latter part of the professional league.

On the other hand, smarting from their humiliating defeat at the hands of Sheikh Jamal, Brothers put on a brave show in the first half, but came under pressure in the second half.

"Either side could have won the game as both found scoring chances," Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal said. "But I am happy with the performance

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Draw gives India series

Cricket

REUTERS, Miami

India wrapped up their series against the West Indies 1-0 on Sunday when the third and final Test ended in a draw in Dominica after a fine rearguard action from Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

India, who won the opening in Jamaica and then drew the last two, were 94 for three in their second innings, having been set 180 to win, when the players shook hands and agreed to an early finish after tea on the fifth day.

West Indies effectively saved the match after making 332 in their second innings, Chanderpaul finishing with an unbeaten 116 after putting on a crucial 37 over, 65-run partnership with Fidel Edwards (30) for the ninth wicket.

Chanderpaul celebrated becoming the most capped West Indian in series with his 23rd ton in a 133 s and it was a typically gritty innings from the Guyanese left-hander.

He lost Darren Sammy early, the West Indies captain caught at short-leg off Harbhajan Singh although television replays suggested the ball had struck only his pad.

Then Ravi Rampaul was run out as West Indies looked set to fold before Edwards came in and produced his best score in cricket, showing grit and focus.

Chanderpaul, who struck just five fours from 343 deliveries and was named man of the match, was clearly annoyed when Edwards finally lost his patience and holed out to Praveen Kumar at deep mid-off of the bowling Raina.

Raina's part-time spin quickly took care of Devendra Bishoo as India finally finished off the West Indies tail.

There was time enough for India to reach the target of 180 with around 47 overs expected to be available but their attempt got off to a poor start.

Edwards took the new ball and struck with the first delivery -- trapping Abhinav Mukund leg before wicket.

Murali Vijay made a smart 45 before Rampaul had him caught by Bishoo and Raina was promoted to perhaps push along the run-rate but went for eight, caught and bowled by Rampaul, before the game ended, prematurely, when it was clear India were no longer chasing the target.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Swann No. 1 ODI bowler

PTI, Dubai

Graeme Swann on Sunday became the world's number one ODI bowler for the first time in his career after the off-spinner's eight-wicket haul helped England to a 3-2 series win against Sri Lanka.

The 32-year-old claimed series figures of 8-164 against the visiting Lankan team to dethrone New Zealand's left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who had held the spot since September 2009 in the ICC Player Rankings for ODI bowlers.

Swann is also ranked number two in cricket, behind South Africa's Dale Steyn, but his number one ODI ranking is the first time an England bowler has achieved in any form of the game since Steve Harmison's brief rise to the top of the rankings in August 2004.

India's off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is at ninth place in the ODI bowling chart while England's teammate

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Sammy proud of draw

Cricket

CRICINFO, Windsor Park

"As you saw, the crowd, who are very understanding, treated the drawn result as a win for us because we got out there and fought," Darren Sammy said, at the end of a day when West Indies came out with their heads held high. They walked around the ground, with the crowds cheering them on wildly.

The West Indies' fighting spirit first came to the fore on the third day of the Test. They were a bowler short but the rest of their attack fought on impressively. Even then you wondered whether the batsmen would rise to the challenge in the second innings. After all, the bowling unit had done well through the series; it was the batsmen who had let the team down. However, led by Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Kirk Edwards and propped up by a wonderful rearguard action from the indefatigable Fidel Edwards, the batsmen gave a stirring performance.

"That's exactly what the coach and the public have been asking for," Sammy said. "Even if we are not winning games, as long as we go and show the fight that we showed in this Test... the batsmen saw how hard the bowlers worked to get the wickets, so that was motivation enough for them to go out and give them some rest and more time in the dressing room. The way we batted in the second innings: Shiv, Kirk and even Fidel [who] faced more than a 100 balls. It was

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



The Indian team pose with the winners' trophy in Dominica on Sunday after wrapping up the three-match Test series 1-0.

PHOTO: AFP